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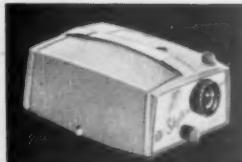
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RECREATION

APRIL 1961

VOL. LIV NO. 4

PRICE 60c



THE MAGAZINE
OF THE
RECREATION MOVEMENT

GENERAL

PROGRAM

ADMINISTRATION

EACH MONTH DIGEST

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Editor in Chief, JOSEPH PRENDERGAST

Editor, DOROTHY DONALDSON

Assistant Editor, ELVIRA DELANY

Associate Editors

Administration, GEORGE BUTLER

Program, VIRGINIA MUSSelman

Business Manager

FRANK ROWE

Advertising Manager

ESTA GLUCK

On the Cover



"SLIDING POND," by night. A child's delight, this imaginative Danish play sculpture is also shown on the cover as it looks by daylight. Designed by Torsten Johansson, sculptor-designer, for the children's playground in Tivoli Gardens, Copenhagen, it serves for play by day, is illuminated in the evening and stands as an intriguing abstract work of art. A creation of iron, and painted yellow, it is one of a group of five such designs, among them a "Fireworks Tree." Photos courtesy Georg Jensen, New York City.

Next Month

Watch for *Music Is Recreation*, the first in a series of supplements to RECREATION, bringing subscribers, free, an additional sixteen pages on "The Performing Arts in Recreation." (These supplements will subsequently be sold as separate pamphlets. Price to be announced.) May being Senior Citizen Month, we will discuss some new frontiers for senior citizens, the importance of recreation in their lives, and how programs have been set up for them.

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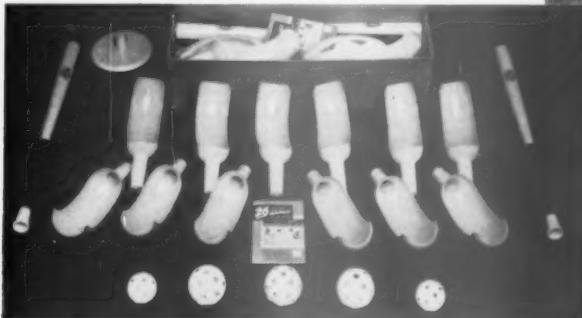
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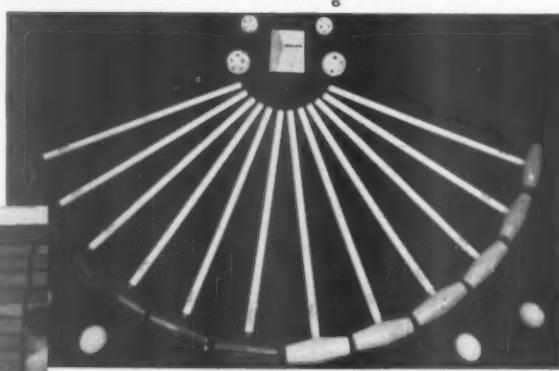
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Creativeness... *Which Way?*

Charles K. Brightbill



MARIO PEI, the distinguished philologist, who gave us the *Story of English*, wonders if we would be able to understand the American of 2061. Language, meanings, and consequently the interpretations and influences of words, change with time. The word *recreation* is not an exception. Unfortunately, over the years, many of us have gotten away from the real meaning of recreation. We have come to associate it not with what it originally was, and really is—*living creatively, over and over again*—but rather with the shallower pursuits of amusement and frivolity. We have come to so misuse the word that there are many people who think of leisure activity as recreation only if something is being done *for* them rather than *by* them. In this sense, recreation tends to achieve the direct opposite of what was originally intended. We are long overdue in bending it back toward what it was first meant to convey—*living creatively*. The accent is on *living*—full living—repeatedly and continuously. Life and creativeness are much alike in their form and nature. Change is the essence of both.

Not only is creative effort the road to inner peace and harmony, it is also the instrument for self-fulfillment and the prime mover of individuality. Modern living is group living. It has been said that as crowds grow, individuals disappear. Thus, as the population multiplies, and we become more dependent upon one another in the affluent community, the chance to preserve and strengthen individuality may become more elusive unless we learn how to imbue our leisure-centered lives with creative behavior.

Creativeness should be cultivated in the home; but too often the discipline which accompanies the raising of children washes out the free-wheeling spirit necessary to nurturing and fostering the curiosity which precedes creativity. The school should be the propellant of creative activity in the “breakthrough” to new frontiers of full living, but the probing, questioning, dynamic approach to uninhibited self-expression, so essential to non-imitation, does not square with uniform assignments, regurgitating stale facts and covering a given amount of knowledge in a predetermined period of time.

What of the church? Here there is some opportunity, but because of its inherent nature often the channels of

PROFESSOR BRIGHTBILL is head of the Department of Recreation at the University of Illinois in Urbana.

self-expression are largely confined to issues of social reform and those talents which are best expressed in service to others, the latter a worthy, if not always fertile, field for creative growth!

We ought to get from work, and certainly from the hours we spend in our homes, schools, and churches, whatever opportunities can be extracted for creative living. It seems, however, that the most promising setting of all, now and increasingly in the future, for generating creativeness and individuality, is in our leisure and our recreative use of it. Here we can live as uninhibited and as unencumbered as the rights of others and the ground rules of society will allow. Here is the opportunity for knocking routine and the perfunctory state of mind into a “cocked hat.” Here we can slip off the shackles of tradition without weakening the underpinning of our most precious democratic institutions. The attractiveness of our leisure, as a force for sharpening individuality and self-making, is in its unique environment. It is an environment quite different from our work setting and one which permits new forces to play upon our imaginativeness and unused talents. It is the time for new occupations and novel preoccupations, for unheralded experiences and unhurried expectancies, for broad horizons, new frontiers, and bright hosannas.

LET US give this non-fraudulent, self-perpetuating human resource which we call *creativity* a real chance to germinate and blossom. Let it be encouraged everywhere—in our homes, in our schools, in our churches, and in our communities. Let it be nurtured in our recreation centers and accommodated in our playgrounds. Let it begin with the natural imaginativeness and curiosity of the young and continue with the patience and understanding of the old.

Creative imagination sprouts best in an atmosphere of spontaneity where there is a real opportunity to explore according to our own sweet wills—in our leisure. But if we are to give creativeness the chance it deserves, we shall have to let it take us where it will. We shall have to accept the idea that where original and unique thinking and action develop, independent thought and action take precedence over conformity and concurrence, and that there are limits to the distance which logic can take us. We shall have to remember, too, that the price we must pay for creativeness parallels that which we must pay for freedom—open minds! #

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LETTERS

Readers are invited to share their views on these pages. Comments of general interest are always welcome. — The Editors.

An Objective Look

Sirs:

Mr. Mose Leibowitz of our recreation commission was so interested in the article by Marion Harper, Jr., "The New Conflict of Time and Money," in the January issue that we were all alerted and ended up having the article reproduced and sent out to three hundred local residents on our active mailing lists. While most of us who are actively engaged in recreation are aware of the tremendous changes taking place in our living patterns and are convinced of recreation values, it is always very helpful to "get a look" at the picture more objectively, through the eyes of a person who is not directly involved in our field. I am taking the liberty of writing to Mr. Harper expressing our appreciation of his article.

Sylvia C. Newcombe, Superintendent, Recreation Commission, York, Pennsylvania.

- This letter illustrates one of the many values of sharing RECREATION Magazine with your boards and commissions.—Ed.

Rebuttal

Sirs:

I should like to take exception to the insinuations in Herb Grade's letter to the editor in the February issue. To make the all-encompassing implication that the smaller parks and "first-class playgrounds" are going unused is, at best, a misconception or a lack of knowledge. It would seem to me that there is an "old guard" among landscape designers and certain park superintendents who would still set out the signs reading "Don't Walk on the Grass." Aesthetic values notwithstanding, I can think of no prettier sight than an area where the grass has been worn or scuffed away, through use, play, and enjoyment.

A certain lack of knowledge of good leadership technique is also apparent in Mr. Grade's letter. I do not believe that we "give 'em whatever they want" as such. A good recreation leader, knowing which activities are likely to best suit his charges, now and in later life, is able, unauthoritatively, to guide

participants so they will want to do what the leader believes they should. This encompasses the contrived environment technique.

Peter A. Deimel, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Greenwich, Connecticut.

- Mr. Deimel has just become superintendent of recreation in Wilton, Connecticut.—Ed.

Not All for Autos

Sirs:

I believe the attitude of the public roads officials toward parks and other recreation facilities very dangerous. I enclose an editorial from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* [February 1, 1961] that is certainly a case in point:

NOT ALL FOR AUTOS

On the theory that parks are as important as streets, especially when a city has fewer parks than streets, the City Plan Commission ought to modify its proposed new major street plan as it affects the center of Forest Park.

The state already intends to use more acreage from Forest Park on its southern and eastern edges for the Boone route widening and Kingshighway straightening and interchange. The city is cutting into the northern edge of the park for a local expressway. Yet the Plan Commission now suggests linking Union boulevard and Hampton avenue through the middle of the park.

Has not Forest Park suffered enough for the automobile? Would the proposed north-south link really relieve park traffic, or would it divide the park into two parks?

* * * *

The automobile does not yet dictate all facets of urban living, and it is the City Plan Commission's responsibility to guard a balanced use of our city's assets. Of these diminishing park space certainly must command some priority.

James V. Swift, 7363 Liberty Avenue, St. Louis 30, Missouri.

Thank You, Thank You

Sirs:

Congratulations on the new look in RECREATION. Being a relatively young

worker in the recreation field, your magazine has helped me a great deal and I look forward to continued assistance.

BEN C. BOOZER, *Director of Recreation, Camden, South Carolina.*

* * * *

We enjoy the interesting format of your magazine and the many wonderful articles you have been running.

KENNETH R. ANDERSON, *Planning Consultant, 206 East Grant Street, Roseville, California.*

* * * *

... my congratulations to the RECREATION Magazine staff for the newest format and the unusual excellent articles. For over ten years I have been clipping articles, filing them in notebook covers under suitable classifications. Not only does our staff use these materials, but other community and area agencies find these materials very helpful.

JOHN H. CRAIN, JR., *Executive Director, Leominster Recreation Center, Leominster, Pennsylvania.*

Catalogues Wanted

Sirs:

May we ask you to obtain for us, and as soon as possible, *all* the available information on resources from your March [Trade Mart] coupon? This endeavour to inform our graduates and undergraduates on the purchase and buying of material was undertaken recently by the Information Centre. Hence, we call on your cooperation to help us. *Duplicates* of requested information would be greatly appreciated for students' consultation.

ROBERT MATTE, *Correspondent, University of Ottawa, Department of Physical Education, 90 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa 2, Ontario, Canada.*

• We have been receiving many similar requests. Other countries report a paucity of catalogues of equipment and supplies. Recreation departments would be doing their counterparts overseas a real service by sharing surplus or duplicate catalogues and literature with them. Manufacturers and suppliers would also promote international goodwill by forwarding such materials. Other requests for any available catalogues and literature on supplies, materials, and equipment have been received from:

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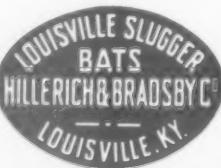
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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING

WHAT IS A PLAYGROUND?

Too many annual reports issued by recreation departments read as if they were written for IBM machines or turnstiles rather than human beings. However, the 1960 annual report of the parks and recreation department in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, is a simple and warm account which sets forth, among other matters, the following philosophy and aspirations motivating its activities. Dorothea Nelson is recreation superintendent in St. Louis Park.

A PLAYGROUND OFFERS children an opportunity to run, to jump, to holler, to climb—it gives children a chance to play any number of games (with equipment and without), to play by themselves, with someone, or with a group. It offers an opportunity to sit on the grass, to wade in a pool, to swing, to make a craft object, to have conversations and storytelling, to join a group who are putting on a little play, to join a team in softball, volleyball, box hockey, tennis, or to build castles in the sand box.

There are no "stay off the grass" or "don't make so much noise" signs. If you have fifty to one hundred children on a skating rink, a playground, or in an athletic event, it is necessary to have a leader who can make things move smoothly, teach the rules, and prevent domination by the few. A child's education is gained in many ways—in school, at home, in church, and on the athletic field and playground. A leader helps to direct, to advise, to show, and to teach. Leaders are there to see that everyone has an enjoyable, profitable time. A public department has personality only in its leadership. That gives it life in a community.

We all know what the ideal would be in recreation—a river, a forest, or a lake in our back yard, a few vacant lots, a barn, a tree to climb—but these are gone for the cities and suburbs. So we substitute. We have a playground program, a swimming (teaching) program, a municipal athletic program for adults and children, a tennis teaching program, groups for tiny tots and golden agers, classes to learn skills, plus skating, baseball, hockey, and football programs. As we look around every city in the country, even towns of one thousand people have some kind of organized program. . . .

One of America's foremost religious leaders, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, said: "Did you ever stop to think that nothing beautiful ever came into life until we started to play? The spirit of play, which is the crown of work and home life, is also the crown of religion." #

Childhood knows no frontiers and all is grist to the mill when it comes to play time.—"MISS READ" (English author).



AS WE GO TO PRESS

► A YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS of male teenagers to work on conservation projects across the nation is proposed by the Kennedy Administration. A Department of Labor study group has completed recommendations, which are under review by Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg. The department report calls for a combined education-work program for 150,000 boys from 17 to 19. The volunteers would draw token wages, live in special camps, and work under such conservation agencies as the National Park Service, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation. The Youth Corps would most closely resemble the Civilian Conservation Corps of the depression-ridden thirties. It would have no connection with the Peace Corps.

► HOST TO CHILDREN'S THEATRE CONFERENCE: Janesville, Wisconsin is expecting a gathering of between three hundred and five hundred children's theater representatives of Region 8, May 6-7. Among those who will attend are teachers, community leaders, club leaders, recreation department directors, leaders of Boy Scout, Girl Scout, YMCA and YWCA units, psychologists.

► ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC RECREATION AREAS along the nation's shorelines before the cost of acquiring such property becomes prohibitive has been urged by witnesses before a Senate Public Lands subcommittee. It is considering a bill calling for study of seashore park proposals and authorizing a \$10,000,000 appropriation to help individual states purchase lands and set up seashore recreational areas. Charles Deturk, California's chief of parks and beaches, strongly endorsed the bill but said the amount provided as a matching fund for states was "woefully inadequate."

► COVERING THE WATERFRONT with safety-conscious boaters and bathers is the goal of the national aquatic and small craft schools scheduled to be operated by the American Red Cross this summer for the fortieth consecutive season. Designed to train instructors, the schools' graduates are prepared to share their skills and knowledge with the nation's water-loving amateurs.

Prospective students of either aquatic or small craft schools must be eighteen or older and certified by their physicians as physically fit. Fees for the schools range from \$50 to \$60 and include board, lodging, texts, and other materials. Further information and applications can be obtained from local Red Cross chapters or from area offices of the American Red Cross in Alexandria, Virginia; Atlanta, Georgia; St. Louis, Missouri; and San Francisco, California. Ask for a list of the schools, locations, and dates.

► THE UNITED STATES VOLLEY BALL CHAMPIONSHIP will be played off May 10 to 13 in Duluth, Minnesota. It is believed that about sixty teams will participate in the Duluth events. The Duluth committee is working full steam to make this tournament as successful as any past competitions.

► A NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE is announced by COMEBACK, the new organization for social rehabilitation. The committee is interviewing singers, actors, and other entertainers to work with hospitalized, homebound, and aging folk in greater New York, and aging folk in greater New York.

► SOS! Members of the National Advisory Committee on the Publishing of Recreation Materials, we are still waiting for volunteer writers for our remaining Manual chapters! Please write your chairman or committee secretary

immediately as to which chapter you feel best qualified to prepare. An outline guide for authors will soon be ready.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

► BETTER HUNTING AND FISHING in the National Forests will be available to sportsmen during the next ten to fifteen years because of a wildlife habitat management program announced recently by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This plan, called *National Forest Wildlife*, is Part 2 of Operation Outdoors. Highlights of the program will include: planting shrubs, grasses and herbaceous plants on a million and a half acres of game range; clearing openings, food patches, and game ways for wildlife in dense vegetation on four hundred thousand acres; and improvement of seven thousand miles of fishing streams and fifty-six thousand acres of lakes by stabilizing banks, planting stream-side cover, and constructing channel improvements. The cost of improvements is estimated at \$25,600,000 over a ten to fifteen year period.

► PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, an avid boatman and sailboat racing skipper, has placed the full authority of his high office behind the promotion of boating safety through a recent Presidential Document urging the observance of National Safe Boating Week in 1961, July 2-9.

► QUESTIONS BEING ASKED. To determine what substantial groups of Americans think our national purpose is and

QUOTING THE PRESIDENT

JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY is proving one of our most quotable presidents. The following are culled from a number of JFK speeches:

WE MUST eradicate slums and urban blight. We must expand our park system and provide greater recreational opportunities in order that our cities will be healthy communities in which our children may grow up free from fear, tension, and want. . . .

* * * *

AMERICA's health, morale, and culture have long benefitted from our national parks and forests, and our fish and wildlife opportunities. Yet these facilities are resources not now adequate to meet the needs of a fast-growing, more mobile population—and the millions of visitor-days which are now spent in federally owned parks, forests, wildlife, refuges, and water reservoirs will triple well before the end of this century.

should be, nine national organizations will cooperate in a countrywide inquiry in 1961-62. The National Recreation Association will coordinate the project under a grant from *Life* magazine. Joseph Prendergast, NRA executive director, points out that the study differs from previous inquiries in that it seeks the opinions of a broad range of citizens rather than of a selected group of experts.

Cooperating organizations include the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Kiwanis International, the AFL-CIO, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Extension Service discussion groups, the National Council for the Social Studies, the U.S. National Student Association, the Boy Scouts of America (Explorer Scout program for boys 15-18), the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. (Senior Scout program for girls 14-17).

Approximately one thousand groups from each cooperating organization or a total of nine thousand groups representing organizations with an aggregate membership in millions, are being selected to take part in the discussion. The NRA estimates that about a quarter of a million persons will actively participate in the project, and that several million more will be involved through follow-up meetings that will not be required to make formal reports and therefore will not be counted in the final returns.

Discussions will take place throughout 1961 and early 1962. Reports will be analyzed and tabulated in the spring of 1962 and the final report to the nation is scheduled for mid-1962.

► THE 1961 CONFERENCE of the National Association of Recreation Therapists will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, April 4-7. The National Recreation Association will be represented by David Langkammer, the Association's Great Lakes District representative, and Morton Thompson, acting director of the NRA Consulting Service on Recreation for the Ill and Handicapped.

► CELEBRATE AMERICAN BIKE MONTH during May. To help you launch a bike program or expand your present one, the Bicycle Institute of America has prepared a booklet of *America's All-Time Ten Best Bike Games* which includes twelve official rules of safe riding. The free booklets are being distributed across the country in every retail bike store. The BIA is located at 122 East 42nd Street, New York 17.

► THE 9TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE of State Interagency Committees for Recreation will be held May 23-25 at Bear Mountain Inn, Palisades Interstate

Park, New York. Caswell M. Miles, chief of the Bureau of Physical Education, New York State Education Department, is conference director.

► A NATIONAL AQUARIUM has been proposed by Representative Michael Kirwan of Ohio in a bill (H.R. 111) he recently introduced.

► THE NATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL has incorporated as the National Folk Festival Association, Inc., and has settled down in a permanent home in Washington, D.C., in the John Kilpen Hotel, 2310 Ashmead Place, N.W. The 25th Annual National Folk Festival will take place on May 17-19 at Constitution Hall in Washington.

► OUR COASTAL WETLANDS are fast disappearing, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Drainage and other measures are ruining fish and game habitats. The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Committee, an association of states, and the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission are studying the effects of marsh burning on vegetation, soils, wildlife population, run-off, and water quality, as well as the after-effects of draining, filling, water diversion, dams, revetments on natural habitat.

► SMOOTH AND ROUGH ICE will be skated over at the Ice Skating Institute to be held in Chicago May 2-4. Over one hundred operators and builders from all parts of the country will attempt to solve problems of operation and maintenance. A series of round-table meetings will divide participants into public-rink operators, commercial-rink managers, studio operators, builders and suppliers, and ice hockey administrators.

► GUIDEPOSTS FOR RECREATION in the medical setting will be implanted during the Fifth Southern Regional Institute on Recreation in Hospitals, to be held in Morehead Planetarium at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 20-22. Among the ten sponsoring organizations are the North Carolina Recreation Commission, the North Carolina Recreation Society (Hospital Division) and the National Recreation Association. Doris Berryman of the NRA Consulting Service on Recreation for the Ill and Handicapped will be one of the leaders for a workshop on expanding horizons of personnel.

► A NEW RECORD. Travel to twenty-nine national parks and 147 other areas administered by the National Park Service totaled 72,288,000 visits in 1960, based on a new counting system inaugurated during the year. Since the

visitor-count system was changed, 1960 figures for individual park areas cannot be compared in every case with 1959 figures for the same areas. Had the previous system been continued in 1960 the total park travel for the year would have been shown at 65,587,000, an increase of 4.8 percent over the 62,812,000 recorded in 1959. While there are 186 areas in the National Park System there are nine small areas where no count is taken. In addition, the total count does not include the other unit, National Capital Parks in Washington, D.C. and environs.

► FAMILY CAMPING know-how is provided as a public service by the department of recreation of the University of Illinois, which will stage its annual Family Camping Show at Illini Grove, Urbana, May 20-21. First held in 1958, the show has grown steadily in scope and attendance. More than seventeen thousand who attended the 1960 show saw fifty commercial and noncommercial exhibits. The 1961 show will emphasize new types of equipment, homemade equipment, and such camping techniques as back packing, canoe tripping, outdoor cooking, and basic skills.

► LOCAL ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGNS will get a pickup during the spring regional conferences of Keep America Beautiful, Inc. On schedule are one-day workshops in Concord, New Hampshire, April 14; Memphis, Tennessee, May 4; and Jackson, Mississippi, May 5.

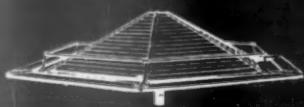
► NEW ADDRESS: Camp Fire Girls, Inc., is now located at 65 Worth Street, New York 13.

DATES TO REMEMBER

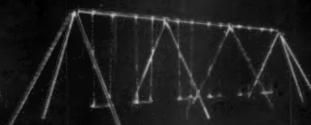
May 1-31	American Bicycle Month
May 1-8	American Camp Week
May 1-7	National Youth Fitness Week
May 7-14	National Family Week
May 13-30	Let's Go Fishing Time
May 14	Mother's Day
May 14-20	National Girls Club Week
May 30	Memorial Day
June 1-30	National Recreation Month
June 14	Flag Day
June 18	Father's Day
June 19-25	Swim for Health Week
June 2-8	National Safe Boating Week
July 4	Independence Day
July 28	Joseph Lee Day



"my grandfather makes the best playground equipment in the whole world because he loves little people like me! he makes slides and swings and see-saws and all kinds of things. they're real strong and they're very safe. if you're going to buy playground things you better talk to my grandfather first. his name is mr. burke."



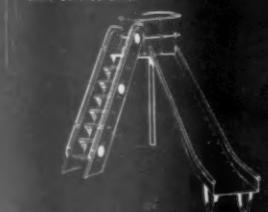
Extra Heavy Duty Merry-Go-Round—4½" o.d. galvanized steel pipe support plus finest select hardwood make this a lifetime service unit.



Rugged Heavy Duty Swing—triangular end pipes plus center pipe supports.



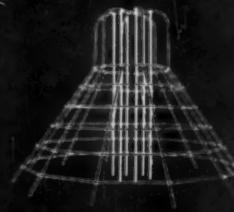
Kiddie Glider and Hobby Horse Swing—self-propelled with maximum safety. Can be assembled with various swing units.



Unique Space Saver Slide—Features bright weather-proof colors over galvanized iron and a stainless steel bedway.



Regulation Offset Basketball Backstop—Safest design in outdoor backstops. Support pipes set back 2½' from play area, 6' apart.



Climb-A-Round—diversified play for 25 to 85 children, depending on size of unit.

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At No Cost Please send me your complete playground planning and specification file.

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In the shadow of Mt. Idy—winners of the Charley Weaver contest at York's Flotilla Day. The children dressed as the saggy-baggy TV rascallion, read their cracklebrained "letters from mamma," peering out craftily over their specs.

PLAYGRO



Tryouts for York's Traveling Theatre. Youngsters from all the playgrounds had a chance to test their talents.



Future astronaut tries on a Navy space suit on Middletown playground. He seems a likely prospect for enlistment in another decade. Navy also showed lighter-than-air ships.



New worlds to explore! New Jersey youngsters examine display of models of Cloud-Cover Satellites, Vanguard Rocket, Explorer Satellite at exciting outer-space events.

UND COUNTDOWN



Flotilla Day ends at twilight with a parade of lighted floats on Kiwanis Lake, followed by special contests and entertainment. Each playground made a booth on a country fair theme. Miss Country Fair (center) was the fete's reigning beauty.

Left, can't have a fair in the Pennsylvania Dutch area without some shoo fly pie, so these bonneted misses set up a pie booth on Flotilla Day. Simple Simons met some pie ladies at this fair.

Winning float of the 1960 Flotilla was a frilly castle from birthday-cake land, complete with moat, drawbridge, and topiary garden. In the candlelit gloaming, a scene from York of yore.

This Traveling Theatre was built and donated to the city playgrounds by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, is pulled by a park department jeep on its rounds. Here, playground "rubes" present a "Country Fair Musical."



Many of today's special activities reflect the events and trends of the world and space around us.

PLAYGROUND PROGRAMS ARE adventuring into many realms these days—land, sea, and outer space. Here are some of the special activities to be found at the spin of the compass:

In Outer Space

It's no wonder children in Middletown Township, New Jersey, think of outer space as their own backyard. The township lies within the New York Metropolitan Defense perimeter and has a Nike Battery and Missile Master installation within its boundaries. The U.S. Signal Corps headquarters at Fort Monmouth and the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst are nearby. Therefore, Recreation Superintendent Jack W. Moody decided to update the time-honored playground balloon launching and hunt by expanding it into a *Satellite Launching Day* for both children and adults. Incidentally, the local military welcomed this opportunity for an excellent bit of public relations.

Adding to the atmosphere of Bodman Park during the event were mobile and static displays exhibited through the cooperation of the military installations. The U.S. Signal Corps headquarters at Fort Monmouth and the Naval Air Station at Lakehurst are nearby. The U.S. Army Signal Research and Development Laboratory, Fort Monmouth, exhibited models of the Cloud-Cover Satellite, Vanguard Rocket, Explorer Satellite, and an electrical model Missile Master site installation. The Naval Air Reserve Training Unit from the Naval Air Station brought along models of lighter-than-air ships, a life raft including survival

gear, and a space suit, the helmet of which the children could place over their heads. Battery "B", 4th Missile Battalion of the 71st Artillery brought to the park "Middletown's Own" Nike-Ajax rocket complete with launcher which was elevated into firing position every five minutes.

Once the program release hit the papers other local groups and individuals offered their services to fill out the schedule of events. The commander of the VFW Post 2179 furnished the post drill team to open the activities with a five-gun four-volley salute. Drill team members remained as launching pad attendants. A local Boy Scout troop assisted in crowd control and guarding the displays. Local police reserves volunteered to direct traffic and park automobiles.

The program involved lofting five hundred helium-filled, multi-colored balloons with attached return addressed cards bearing the sender's name and a request to the finder to record his name and address and mail back to Middletown.

On Land and Sea

Many traditional playground events have been developed into a fine science in York, Pennsylvania. Three of the most popular activities are Flotilla Day, The Boat Regatta, and The Traveling Theatre. Mrs. Sylvia Newcombe, superintendent of recreation, sends the following details:

Flotilla Day is well on its way to being an annual city-wide event, popular with children and adults alike. The program brought out eight thousand adult spectators last August. This is a play-day type of event, starting in the early afternoon with all playgrounds in the city actively involved. The central feature is at twilight, when a parade of lighted floats is toured about the Kiwanis Lake. The city's Spring Garden Band plays music for this spectacle of light and the city swans are usually intrigued and curious and follow the parade in a stately row.

Each playground constructs its own float on a base approximately six feet square which is lashed to inflated inner-tubes, to ensure good floating. Last year's theme, "Holidays Aglow," allowed each playground to select a fa-

vorite holiday. Candles were made from discarded candles donated by city churches and poured in glass holders to protect them from the wind. The pouring was done in the department's craft workshop by playground directors on rainy-day staff sessions, sometimes with a selected group of older volunteers. The candles were then mounted on the floats on holders made of tin cans. In addition, each playground constructed a booth on a country fair theme and sold a food item, as in a country fair. Special contests and entertainment were held during the evening. Playground prizes were awarded both for floats and booths. The evening closed with a public concert. The project is not only beautiful for the public to witness but allows latitude for each playground to choose and develop its own colorful project for the event.

The Traveling Theatre is a show wagon for playground talent and entertainment. It has a stage which, when extended, measures 12'4"-by-9' and is equipped with footlights and sound. This theater was built and donated to the city playgrounds by the York Junior Chamber of Commerce. Talent tryouts are open to playground children and entertainment routines are presented. Local dance and music studios are invited to present outstanding pupils, thus giving a professional touch to the program.

The theater is pulled by the park department jeep, on a scheduled number

of visits throughout the city. This program will be expanded this coming summer both as a development of playground talent and as to number of showings.

The Boat Regatta is a traditional playground event featuring boat making as a playground craft. All wood used is donated scrap wood from local lumber firms. This is cut into boat bottom shapes by the boys of the city high school manual arts department, and thousands are made available to city playground children who carve, sand, and further build boats from them. The following classifications are followed: sailboats, tugs and speed-boats, houseboats and showboats, battleships, freighters, liners, and miscellaneous (from soap, paper, aluminum, etcetera).

One of the nice features of this event is the creativity and imagination used by the children in the boat building—radio equipment, houseboat furniture, aircraft carriers, battleship equipment, and all manner of ideas find expression in this project. There are hundreds of boats in the final craft judging. The races are held on a playground stream which is dammed up in advance to assure a good current for the races. While considerable luck is involved in the race awards, the races are the final fun for the playground children and top off a very popular event.

Filling a Void

Since many of the playground areas in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, have become rather void in nature resources, the park and recreation department decided to transport the children to other sites where a complete nature program could be conducted. This accomplished, the department was happy to note an immediate improvement in the quality of the program, and the excellent leaf, flower, and insect collections.

In Houston, Texas, August was *Poster-making Month* for all of the children's craft classes and a poster contest was sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Texas Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Over one hundred posters were displayed and judged at Dodson Lake on the last day of August.



Illustration by Syd Hoff
from *Letters from Camp*
(Chilton Company, 1961)



A puppet-making session in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The youngsters also made a display for the playground parade.

RECREATION FOR ALL CHILDREN

Recreation must be a part of the life of every child—even of the handicapped. These examples of what can be and is being done with retarded children are supplied by the National Association for Retarded Children, New York City.



A game of dodgeball. Adequate opportunity for play and fun is an important form of self-help for the mentally retarded.

R FOR THE ILL AND HANDICAPPED

RECREATION IS a human need and should be a part of the life of every child, and the job of a professional recreation worker includes a concern for the recreation of all children. Authorities agree that recreation activities for children who are handicapped, either physically or mentally, are important not only as health, educational, and training tools but also for the social group experience. More and more such activities are being conducted on playgrounds, in camps and recreation centers. Some of the groups are isolated for the various activities, and some are integrated with so-called normal children. Recreation leaders are learning that retarded and otherwise handicapped children resemble normal children more than they differ from them. They do, however, develop at different rates of speed.

Local units of the National Association for Retarded Children, while carrying out such programs on their own, are cooperating with municipal recreation departments or other community agencies throughout the country in setting up such programs and in providing facilities such as playgrounds, day camps, social dance classes, swimming, arts and crafts, scouting, sleep-in camps, teen canteens, and most of the activities open to "normal" children and adults.

Activities

Scouting—In Massachusetts, the Hampshire County Association for Retarded Children has organized a group of girl scouts whose ages range from seven to twenty-one. In Gardner, retarded boy scouts have been integrated into a local troop. A cub pack is being organized in Lynn under the guidance of the North Shore ARC.

Swimming—A swim program has been launched in Gloucester, Massachusetts. Boys and girls from Berkshire and North Berkshire ARCs take advantage of pool facilities at the Pittsfield Girls' Club on Monday nights. The scout troop in Brockton goes swimming as a group.

Playgrounds—In Kentucky, the Bluegrass Association for Mentally Retarded Children sponsors a four-week summer playground program, with one trained playground director and one volunteer helper for each four children in attendance. One day is devoted to handwork and play. Two days are devoted mainly to rhythm band and singing, games, and music. One day a dancing teacher teaches simple tap routines and folk dancing. Fridays the group uses one of the municipal pools before it is opened to the public.

Clubs—The Association for the Help of Retarded Children in Eugene, Oregon, was able to start a teen club for the retarded. They have received free dancing lessons from the Arthur Murray Studios and swimming instructions from the American Red Cross.

In Michigan, the Kalamazoo School for Retarded Children has a program for young adults, seventeen to thirty. They are picked up and arrive at the school about 4 PM for

Continued on Page 207

The gambling capital does not take chances when it comes to its public recreation program.

RECREATION . . . LAS VEGAS STYLE

Gordon D. Hunsaker



To some ten million Americans who visit Las Vegas, Nevada, each year it is a neon city of festooned nighteries and gaming casinos; but to the 125,000 men, women, and children who live in and around it, Las Vegas means home. The community has gone to some extraordinary lengths to provide its young with the recreation facilities they need to grow up properly. In glittering Las Vegas there are many types of legal "games." There is the kind played on the fabulous "Strip" and equally fantastic Fremont Street downtown—in the multi-million dollar establishments with their pale-green covered crap tables and flash of roulette wheels. Then, there are the games played on those verdant ball parks and school grounds wrested from the desert by the parks department.

Recreation for the city's children and other residents is the result of sound planning by city and school officials backed by the people of Las Vegas. Like any other city, Las Vegas is concerned with the welfare of its children, as regards recreation, parks, schools, juvenile delinquency, and related children-parent-school-city problems.

Las Vegas is a twenty-four-hour town. Split shifts are commonplace; often both parents are working; and children find lonesomeness a problem. The heterogeneous population continues to climb at an amazing rate. Within the shadow of the city are the huge Nellis Air Base and Lake Mead Naval Base. Therefore, the recreation department must provide an extended program of activities geared to the pace of the town and the social backgrounds of its citi-

MR. HUNSAKER, *former assistant superintendent of recreation in Las Vegas, Nevada, is now superintendent of parks, recreation, and forestry in Hazel Park, Michigan.*



zens: pit bosses and agronomists; teachers and air force pilots; laborers and 21 dealers; promoters and preachers.

As well as a full-scale sports program for all age groups, the Las Vegas Recreation Department has gradually developed a diversity of activities. It has promoted a major scale roller-skating program. Thousands of dollars were spent acquiring proper skates; instructors were found and floor guards hired. Every evening and most afternoons finds young and old skating to waltz music supplied through a hi-fi set.

The golden-age club for those over fifty has had astonishing results. Many have come from the shell of old age into a bright new aura of comradeship. They elect their own officers and plan their own activities: anything from chess-and-checker tournaments to picnics and other types of outings.

Slim-and-trim classes have been organized and a new municipal health association is offering weightlifting and other health programs. Arts-and-crafts classes are presenting new ideas to all ages. School playgrounds are kept open by recreation-department personnel during the summer months and trained recreation leaders plan programs for the neighborhood children. The city's four swimming pools accommodate thousands. Municipal officials and the school groups recently have worked out agreements regarding the use and care of the schools and their playgrounds and facilities and the city facilities, including parks, recreation-department facilities, and other city-owned and operated areas. The written agreement leaves no doubt as to the singleness of purpose of the city and schools: that of supplying better recreation for the citizenry of Las Vegas. Schools are available to the city primarily during the summer months; city facilities are used by the school system primarily during the winter months. New junior-high

Left, the glittering neon city of gambling casinos and festooned nighteries known for its fabulous "Strip" and equally fantastic Fremont Street downtown, for multi-million dollar establishments, the flash of roulette wheels, and pale-green covered crap tables.

Right, a rugged landscape against the blue waters of Lake Mead behind giant Hoover Dam makes unforgettable scenery like this for boating enthusiasts visiting Las Vegas. Thousands of fishermen go after the black bass which make the man-made lake their home.



schools have been constructed, each with a beautiful, fully-equipped all-purpose room which includes gymnasium, storage rooms, stage, and office space. The city, with recommendations from the recreation and parks departments, is constructing park-type areas adjacent to the schools.

Parks and recreation, being two distinct departments within the city framework, have also found that through mutual cooperation each department functions with a singleness of purpose. Through the astuteness of Bruce Trent, superintendent of recreation, and Kenneth Hadland, superintendent of parks, a comprehensive program involving activities of both sections of city function has evolved.

BEING A PART of the only state with legalized gambling, Las Vegas accepts the gambling industry as a segment of its community. Through cooperation of the gambling houses many recreation projects have been furthered. Some time ago the recreation department, realizing the need for expanded baseball facilities, undertook the construction of a large, complete, and fully equipped municipal baseball diamond adjacent to the municipal golf course. It was to be fully lighted for night games and outfitted to the "nth" degree. Baseball had captured Las Vegas. Literally thousands of boys of all ages were swarming to both public and private recreation organizations during baseball season for instruction and competition. The city recreation department, alone, through the organization of seven full leagues, including eight-year-olds up through adulthood, provided activity for over eleven hundred persons.

The recreation department needed financial assistance to make the ball park a reality. Through cooperation of one of the TV stations and sportscaster Chuck Hull a marathon TV program was started. Over \$20,000 was realized for the baseball fund, with a substantial amount contributed by the various gaming houses. The ball park is now a reality, a \$60,000 facility. A large number of the teams are managed and coached by employees of the various gaming houses.

Recreation-department personnel have also been instrumental in forming and aiding various community betterment groups. Mr. Trent acts as an advisor to the Youth Advisory Council which delves into the problems of Las

Vegas' youngsters. He participates in the Southern Nevada Community-Armed Forces Council created to develop better rapport between the city and the members of the Armed Forces. Through the efforts of Bill Lewis, the council's coordinator, tours have been arranged so new Air Force, Navy, and Marine personnel can become acquainted with the area and its people.

OOTHER AGENCIES, both public and private, also play an active part in recreation for Las Vegas. The Clark County Fair and Recreation Board, organized primarily to construct a \$6,000,000 convention center, has invested over half a million in the past few years to construct seven swimming pools, two parks, and several other recreation facilities in the area. The board recently acquired a six-square-mile area which it intends to develop into a recreation area for archery, golf, and other outdoor activities. It has contributed \$40,000 for a youth camp at Mt. Charleston and another \$15,000 for an honor camp for problem youngsters.

The PREWIN Foundation has sponsored many projects. The organization takes its name from Milton Prell and Al Winter, two executives of the Hotel Sahara, one of the city's major resorts, and is supported by them and other executives of the hotel. Among other things, PREWIN has financed the activities of the city recreation department rifle team; has bought extensive rehabilitation equipment for the local Easter Seal Treatment Center; has assisted financially in the recreation department's junior baseball program; has financed Las Vegas participation in the Junior Economy Run; and finances such annual events as the Ram-49er basketball game and football clinic and the National Fast Draw Championship.

The local Variety Club sponsors a very costly undertaking, a school for special education for handicapped youngsters, and the Sisters of Divine Providence run a day nursery for children of working mothers. Many other social and civic organizations have their own projects.

Considering the multiple problems which a city of this type experiences and its diversity of population and interests, we are indeed proud of our recreation program—Las Vegas style! #

The Planning Committee in Session—A recent work session in Detroit has resulted in a top program for this year, with a new and unique format developed around the theme "Recreation in a Mobile America." A detailed report of this will appear in the earliest possible issue of RECREATION. (See committee names below.)



*Detroit Skyline—
Cobo Hall in Foreground*

PLANS for your 43rd NATIONAL RECREATION CONGRESS



DETROIT, MICHIGAN
OCTOBER 1 to 6, 1961

Site of Meetings—Detroit's new Cobo Hall and Convention Arena is outstanding among the world's auditoriums for sheer size and flexibility. It offers more than four-hundred-thousand (nine acres) square feet of almost totally unobstructed space to house trade shows, expositions and exhibits. One hundred-thousand square feet in one unit, three hundred-thousand in another, can be combined to house one major event, or partitioned to hold as many as four events simultaneously. The main auditorium holds up to fourteen thousand, and thirty-three smaller rooms will hold meetings ranging in attendance from eighty to three thousand. The two larger rooms can be combined to seat five thousand or a banquet of three thousand.

Policy and Program Committees—Standing, left to right: Edward T. McGowan, first deputy superintendent, Detroit Depart-

ment of Parks and Recreation; Howard Jeffrey, executive director, American Recreation Society; Charles E. Hartsoe, secretary, National Recreation Congress; William Frederickson, Jr., ARS president-elect; Dr. Norman P. Miller, Federation of National Professional Organizations for Recreation; Arthur Williams, associate executive director, National Recreation Association; and Herbert E. Kipke, president, Recreation Association of Michigan. Seated, left to right: Frank J. Rowe, Congress exhibit manager; Willard C. Sutherland, director, NRA Recreation Personnel Service; Mrs. June Braaten, executive secretary, Ontario Recreation Association; Joseph Prendergast, NRA executive director; R. Foster Blaisdell, ARS president; Donald B. Latshaw, RAM; Dr. Edith L. Ball, ARS first vice-president; and Thomas W. Lantz, NRA National Advisory Council. (Not in Photo: Betty J. Lloyd, Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation.)



PROGRAM

TENNIS SERVES!

*Free tennis clinics provide an antidote for delinquency
for over forty thousand youngsters in San Francisco Bay area*

IT TAKES a racquet to beat a racket. This is being proven in the San Francisco Bay area where community leaders were seeking another way to combat juvenile delinquency and decided to try tennis as an antidote. They hoped to interest youngsters in taking a tennis racquet in hand during their most formative years by providing the best qualified instructors. They agreed that the principal ingredients of a successful program for children are the good, health-building sports and the responsible leadership that can help build character; and they felt that tennis could provide both.

But the basic idea had to be tested. Letters of inquiry went out to recreation and physical-education leaders in Northern California, asking many questions about community need in relation to well-conceived program of free tennis instruction. Surprisingly enough, the response was immediate and definite. Department heads spoke up; saying: "We would be greatly interested in

a free tennis-clinic program for our public playgrounds; but, we have neither the equipment nor instructors to carry out such a plan. . . ." "Because of budget difficulties we have not been able to supply the necessary equipment. . . ." "Our gym teachers are so heavily preoccupied with team sports that little emphasis has been placed on tennis. . . ." "There are no tennis courts connected with our school."

The need was clear enough: to create a program was the question. Fifty men started the ball in play by signing articles of corporation and becoming the board of trustees of the Youth Tennis Foundation which is now bringing the teaching of the game to well over forty thousand youngsters in the bay area. The emphasis is on beginners, children between the ages of eight and fifteen who have never held a racquet before.

Facilities were selected with the aid of recreation supervisors for the presentation of the eight-week clinics, first in the more depressed areas. However,

an equitable, city-wide coverage was the goal.

Children from all backgrounds responded; some of the classes had twenty beginners, others seventy-five; and all of them stayed with the program. Now, at the end of spring, summer and fall instruction periods, the youngsters congregate to receive their winner and runner-up trophies; and what a proud moment it is for them! However, the real reward is to the observer who sees the expression of pride and satisfaction on the young faces.

SCHOOLS in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Pittsburg, San Leandro, and San Mateo have been treated to

A well set-up recreation program is one of the most potent factors in the prevention of juvenile delinquency. — KENNETH J. SCUDER, chief probation officer, County of Los Angeles, California, in *The Offender in the Community*.



Brooks Rawlins, a Youth Tennis Foundation instructor, and trophy winners.

demonstration clinics. The turnouts in the schools ranged from two thousand junior high students at rallies to fifty or sixty children in their regular gym classes. This exposure to the game at the junior-high-school level has helped stimulate participation in the after-school tennis clinics. It has also renewed the interest of gym instructors in carrying tennis as an elective sport.

Today, there are more children on tennis courts in the San Francisco Bay area than at any time since the golden days of the game. The delinquency rate in the same geographic area is lower than in other metropolitan areas of the United States. The foundation does not pretend to account for this variance. For, in concert with other fine youth activities, the foundation feels that even one youngster dissuaded from a path of wrongdoing makes the entire program worthwhile. #

CHURCH RECREATION

THE SUMMER RECREATION program at Idlewild Presbyterian Church in midtown Memphis, Tennessee, has grown rapidly since the program began nine years ago in a large house eight blocks from the church. Now there is a spanking new building, opened in September 1960. The program offers a rich variety of activities from instruction in French and lecture-discussions on Japanese culture (highlighting again the educational trend in programming) to golf-by-mail.

The summer program starts the first of June and continues until the last of August. Some of the activities include a day camp, Boy Scout camp, Girl Scout camp, archery instructions, tennis clinic, golf team, departmental class nights for pioneers (grades 7, 8, and 9), senior (grades 10, 11, and 12), and college and young adults, junior first-

aid courses, beginner conversational French classes, bowling team for adults, two Pee-Wee basketball teams (ages 10 and under), two junior baseball teams (ages 11 and 12), senior baseball team (ages 13, 14, and 15), major baseball team (ages 16, 17, and 18).

The church formed a swimming and diving team in 1958, which was the first one formed by a church group in the Southeastern Amateur Athletic Union. Instructions in all Red Cross courses are given to about three hundred people of all ages participating in the swimming program. The summer recreation program is mimeographed and mailed to each family in the church.

The recreation and education committee has a combined budget. The largest percent of the recreation program is paid out of this allotment. Sometimes there is a fee for various activities enabling the church to pay the instructors. All athletics in the church are played in Presbyterian Leagues organized by the Presbyterian Athletic

Association. The Memphis Park Commission furnishes diamonds and umpires and makes up the schedules.

The recreation committee is responsible for the program. This committee is made up of an elder, a deacon, women of the church, junior deacons, the youth fellowship, the children's division, scouting, Recreation Director William R. Strunk, the Christian education director, minister, and members from the church at large. The function of this committee is to plan and supervise an active recreation program for all ages, and to counsel with the director of recreation regarding the activities of the recreation program. The recreation committee is a subcommittee of the Christian Education Committee appointed by the session of the church.

The Idlewild Presbyterian Church invites the church members and people from the vicinity to join in its summer activities. The proof of the program is in its expansion. #

MR. STRUNK is recreation director of the Idlewild Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee.

HAVE HORSE, WILL TRAVEL

Thomas C. Miller

HERE IS a real Wild West aura in Pompano Beach, Florida, where the recreation and parks department sponsors a riding program. Most of the fifty-odd horses and ponies are Western saddle horses; there are even a few English riding horses and two or three fine jumpers. The program began over four years ago when the writer and the city athletic director, Les Parsons, watched several local children riding their horses along the city streets. As the horses approached athletic fields or playgrounds, other children gathered around to pet them, unaware that there was any danger of being stepped on or kicked. This led to the decision to begin a riding program for children.

Pompano Beach, controlling 525 acres of airport property, is one of the few cities fortunate enough to have ample areas for recreation and park expansion. Several years ago, the local Kiwanis Club had built a fine riding ring complete with lights for night activities, underground sprinkler system, well, and pump. When the recreation department learned that the club averaged only one horse show a year, it requested that this area be used to instruct children to ride safely, build their own stables, and, with the aid of the department, to conduct their own horse shows.

The department assumed responsibility for getting the riding ring and surrounding area in good condition by fertilizing the grass, painting the ring, setting up bleachers, and constructing a building with restrooms, storage space, and a small patio where adults could watch the children ride. The department also interested riding enthusiast Albert Smoak, then city commissioner, in the clearance of more than eight miles of bridle paths.

When local residents learned that stable space was being provided, many purchased horses for themselves and their children, and the original six-horse participation has grown to almost sixty. Owners of horses, as participants in the program, are responsible for building their own stalls and stables according to city specifications, as well as cleaning stalls, feeding, watering, and grooming the mounts, and policing the park area. These enthusiastic adults have since formed the Saddle Club, which, along with the recreation department, has held many Western horse shows, barbecues, and moonlight rides.



Alley-oop! Maverick Club members learn precision riding and drills, compete in Western Horsemen's Association shows, a tribute to their skill.

PROGRAM

The pet that adds glamor to program!

Three years ago the city paid the Kiwanis Club for the property and has completely taken over management of the park. The city's budget now provides for its maintenance and for a permanent custodian who lives in a trailer, and is continually on hand in case of an emergency. There is also a laborer assigned to the stables who keeps riding rings, restrooms, and the public area in good condition.

FIFTY CHILDREN and young adults recently formed the Mavericks, a club run by junior officers, but supervised by a board of adults. Here, they learn the elements of safe riding, how to care for, feed, and handle their mounts. These things are necessary if the young people wish to compete in the monthly Western Horsemen's Association circuit shows where riders are introduced to more advanced precision riding and spectacular drills. The department recently acquired an electric timing device to help precision riders performing musical chairs and other drills. A tribute to the Mavericks' riding skill is their recent permission to

hold the first Western Horsemen's Association winter circuit show—never allowed a junior club before.

Even for beginners, cleanliness is a must, and stalls and tackrooms are inspected twice a week to assure that everything is in good condition. Demerits are given for dirty stalls or other disorder and a rider receiving one is grounded from riding for a day or more except to exercise his horse. In line with the emphasis on cleanliness, the department has recently purchased a dump truck to haul away manure to the city nursery and a new spray machine that attaches to the truck to disinfect the area in minutes.

The recreation department is planning many shows, moonlight rides, barbecues, and visits to ranches near the Everglades this winter. With the help of a new supervisor, an experienced horseman who has judged and directed many shows in the South, the program will become even more exciting as time goes on. The growth of this activity since its beginning has been very encouraging. You don't have to live out West to feel at home on the range. #

MR. MILLER is director of recreation and parks in Pompano Beach, Florida.



Highly popular at Baltimore's Patterson Park fair was Ring-the-Bell, a miniature of the strength-tester seen at most carnivals. It was made from wooden boxes in which park shower pipes had been packed.

ADD SOMETHING NEW



The parade that climaxed summer playground activities in Newington, Connecticut, represented every facet of the program. Local residents really found out what the youngsters had been up to all summer.

WHILE FESTIVALS, circuses, parades, and even gold rushes are nothing new historically speaking, they can be the newest—and newsiest—thing in town if you are inventive enough. They can certainly provide the high spot of any summer playground program. The four special events outlined here may inspire you to go and do likewise—or think up variations on similar themes. Frequently, something new is merely something borrowed from something old.

Klondike Gold Rush

Even the dog days of August can be stirring if you reenact the famous Klondike Gold Rush of August 16, 1896. Here's how:

EQUIPMENT: Postage stamp; weighing scale; several rolls of gold wrapping paper (depending on size of group); and several rolls of yellow or gold-like wrapping paper or wallpaper, gold or with streaks of gold.

PREPARATION: Tear paper into small pieces; crumple into various sizes.

PROCEDURE: It is *very important* that the leader signifies that there is "gold in them thar' hills" *without divulging* until the weighing-in at the assayer's office that there is *fool's gold* in them too. Children must not know that some of the paper scattered and hid about is *fool's gold*; otherwise fun is lost.

STAKING CLAIM: Have each child register his name and age with the assayer before the event begins. A sign on door or desk could read:

**U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSAYER
AND
PAWN SHOP FOR PROSPECTORS
PROSPECTORS
REGISTER HERE**
(signed) Sam Mint and
Hank Goldmine, Mgrs.
(Have assayer's desk roped off, or behind table and bench.)

While the children are registering their "staking rights," the assistant hides and scatters gold and *fool's gold* across playground, near trees, behind rocks, in crevices, etcetera. Anybody late or peeking through window is automatically disqualified.

Arrange children in age groups, depending on size of group and area to be covered. Send them out in age groups, one right after the other, starting with the youngest. Explain to each group that it is to search in its own area, each group having a particular area clearly defined from the others. This will give slower children a chance to find gold, too, and also prevent crowding in any particular area. *Remember*, do not tell them that some gold is *fool's gold*. They will discover this later.

At a certain prearranged time, or when whistle blows, assayer's office is open for weighing in the gold. Make sure all children have returned before opening assayer's office. (This will prevent any child from telling others still prospecting that there is a difference in the gold and what the difference is.)

After all children are seated in assayer's office, talk to them about prospecting for gold—how some prospectors don't always find real gold. "What do

they find sometimes?" Some children will eventually answer "Fool's gold." Now they know they not only have real gold, but *fool's gold* too. The leader can ask, "Well, what have *you* found?" Much moaning and hilarity will result.

Now, call each child registered and weigh in his real gold. Whenever *fool's gold* is brought to the table, say loudly, "Fool's gold." Soon all children will identify with each person while waiting their turn and say "fool's gold" along with you. This helps to keep control and interest.

On postage stamp scale, let one sixteenth of an ounce equal one ounce of gold. I had a paper plate taped to top of scale to hold crumpled gold paper. Person with most ounces wins game. Or let each ounce of gold equal one bubble gum or lollipop. At end give something funny to those with *fool's gold* as booby prize.—**VICTOR DiMEO**, *Director, Lynhurst Playground, Bureau of Recreation, Baltimore, Maryland.*

The U.S.— A New Game Court

The map of the United States, which provides the central theme for a sprawling commercial enterprise called Freedoland in New York City, can also be the pivot of some new games on your playground's hard-surface area—as well as a project in decoration. The following instructions and games originated with Jack Isenhour, principal of the Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Pueblo, Colorado, who passed them on to Mrs. Maud V. Stanford, secretary to the Penndel Borough School District in Pennsylvania, when she was casting about for new playground games.

Mr. Isenhour explains that you begin with a small outline map of the United States, an opaque projector and some large sheets of heavy paper. "I used a small outline map of the United States and, with the aid of an opaque projector, projected the map on the wall so I could make another outline map of the United States about twelve by eighteen inches. I then took this larger outline map and projected it on the wall with

the opaque projector until I had the state of Texas measuring nine feet from tip to tip. Why I decided on these dimensions and the state of Texas I do not know, but I figured if I could get Texas large enough for our biggest student to lie down in, I would eventually come out with a map the size I thought I would need. Leaving the opaque projector in the same position and placing each state in the machine, I would have a large outline map drawn to scale. I used heavy paper much like the paper used in roofing and outlined each state, thus making a stencil.

"I then cut out each state and labeled it, placing a dot to represent the position of the capital. Once I had an outline of every state, I assembled the map on the playground, which is black-topped. I traced around each state with chalk, the only remaining job was to paint all the chalk lines with yellow traffic paint.

"The project could be handled by fifth or sixth graders quite easily. Once I outlined all of the states, I then located the dots representing approximately where Pueblo is located. The map measures thirty-five feet in length and is in constant use by the students not only in social study classes, but during recess periods.

"Your imagination sets the limit to the number of variations that can be used with the playground map. Here are four that have proven successful: *Obstacle Type Races*—Beginning in California, hop across Nevada, jump over Colorado, duck walk through Kansas, crawl through Missouri, and sit in



Arkansas. (An individual or team may be given written or oral instructions to follow. Starting on a signal and first team completing instructions wins.) *Locating Points*—Object is to be first one to point described:

Continued on Page 211

Isabel Havel

FROM POLYNESIAN CANOE to Pacific jet—the sweep of Hawaii's advance to full-fledged statehood in the American Union is a dramatic and inspiring story. A succession of migrations to the islands has added to the native population many people from China, Portugal, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, and the mainland of the United States. Today, the people of the islands are born to a life that is much the same as that of boys and girls on the mainland. The result is a community unique under the American flag, composed of people of unusually diverse racial ancestries, but all are American citizens and proud of it.

The Metropolitan Park District, in Tacoma, Washington, sought to capture in its summer playground program both the detail and the flavor of the islands, lovely in their beauty, colorful in their living, and devoted in their adherence to democracy. The summer playground theme was "Aloha, Hawaii." Each week was named after an island.

MRS. HAVEL is supervisor of playgrounds and recreation centers for the park-school district recreation program in Tacoma, Washington.

The first week was Hawaii, "The Big Island." Large signs were painted and spread from tree to tree, saying "Aloha, Hawaii." We no longer lived in Tacoma; we were now on the islands. No one answered you when you said "Hello," you had to say "Aloha." The hill behind the shelter was no longer Franklin Park Hill, it was the *pali* (precipice). The scavenger hunt turned into a King Kamehameha treasure hunt. The children were told how happy and very polite Hawaiian children are; and we had the nicest treasure hunt in playground history. The checker tournament matched one island against the other. The island of Oahu, "The Gathering Place," won the checker tournament.

THE SECOND WEEK we studied Maui "The Valley Island." We tried throwing nets into space a la Hawaiian fishermen. Many years ago the people of Hawaii fished with individual nets. It took a great deal of practice to make the net spread out like a fan and drop smoothly on the water. The net should have weights on one side so you can sail it through the air. We drew a line

along the ground for a shore line, named the imaginary beach after an island, and the area for nets after an Hawaiian bay. The youngsters who threw the nets the longest distance received the first prize certificates. We set the contest up in age groups. The nets used were given to us by the Downtown Fishermen's Wharf. The festival was called a *hukilau*.

The valley luaus were the talk of the season. The food was delicious. We could not always reproduce the food, so we substituted ideas. Cooking was done in an underground oven called an *imu*, a shallow pit filled with heated stones. The food was wrapped in leaves and placed on the stones; more hot stones were placed on the leaves; then more leaves and earth were also placed on top. Cooking is still done this way for a luau, or Hawaiian feast. Our hot stones were briquettes, our leaves aluminum foil, large rhubarb leaves were used for plates. The children, for once in their lives, could eat with their fingers and be absolutely correct.

THE THIRD WEEK we named Oahu, "The Gathering Place." The South

On Tacoma's playgrounds

"ALOHA, HAWAII"



Right, King Kamehameha Day. A visiting prince makes his obeisance to the princess and king before entering the lists to win princess' hand.

Left, lei making. In lieu of maile leaf, ginger flower and golden ilima the Tacoma leis were of pastel toilet tissue—very effective and inexpensive.



Sea Island dress-up show was a sight to behold. Everyone came as a beach-comber, Hawaiian dancer, or beachboy. Grass skirts were made from yesterday's *News Tribune*. Mother's long dresses were worn for muumuu. Glittering gold papier-mâché King Kamehameha hats glistened in the sun as they paraded before the audience. The Waikiki sandcraft contest and the muumuu dolly tea party made our valley a place to remember.

Kauai, "The Garden Island," was a natural for our nature week. We picked the most interesting corner in our field-houses and decked the walls with colorful pictures about nature in Hawaii. We studied about the flowers, trees, insects, and fish of the islands. Every boy and girl made a lei for the flower lei contest. The group was told the story of how the Polynesian settlers of Hawaii brought leis of shark's teeth, shells, or coral bits with them. There were flower leis, made from every kind of blossom and leaf imaginable. When a lei is hung around your neck, it is the custom to kiss the giver; for a lei is the very nicest present that an Hawaiian can give you. (This was most popular with the teenage group.)

As the ancient Polynesians came sailing from one island to the other in small but seaworthy canoes, they brought the custom of the leis with them from India. The very oldest of the leis made in Hawaii were fashioned from the maile leaf, from the delicate and perfumed pale yellow ginger flower and the golden ilima, the flower symbol of royalty. We made our leis, believe it or not, from pastel-colored toilet tissue. They were very effective and very inexpensive.

It took quite a bit of doing to live up to our fifth week, Molokai, "The Friendly Isle." We did so, however, in great style. Everyone was so nice to everyone else, we had the caretakers worried. Our average attendance for the bike hikes over the pali were between twenty-five and thirty-five youngsters from every playground.

The first white man we know of who set foot on the islands was Captain James Cook . . . so we had a Captain Cook's Hat Day. We made hats from

newspapers, wallpaper, cardboard, and paper bags. Old sea-captain hats, pirate hats—the sky was the limit. We let our imaginations run riot—this was a great day. At our district storytelling contest, the Hawaiian stories were informative and fascinating. The librarian couldn't keep enough books on the shelves to accommodate the storytelling enthusiasts.

THE SIXTH WEEK of our playground season we learned all about pineapples and how they grew on the island of "Lanai." Our pet show was another fun time. To qualify, you had to be a playground attender, love your pet, and give it an Hawaiian name in order to be admitted into the Maunalei Gulch. This pet could be anything that breathes, smells with its nose, crawls, eats, or swims. Everything went well except for a few dog fights, cat scraps, upset children, and harassed playground leaders. The highlight of the week was our *ulamaika* (stone rolling contest). This required the rolling of a stone along the ground for distance and accuracy. The distance required to throw the stone was thirty-five feet. This had to be within a radius of ten feet at the end of the throw line. We used discuss shaped rocks about four inches in diameter, which were found on our own Puget Sound beach. The longest-distance thrower was the winner.

Kahoolawe, "Seventh Largest Island," was our seventh week. The travel poster contest was a natural. Wonderful dreams of traveling to the islands were expressed on the children's posters. Many original posters publicized future events on the playground. Treasures from the sea collections were "fantabulous." At the conclusion of the Honaunau Bay Water Carnival all the children threw their leis into the wading pool and let them sail into the middle to be picked up by the Kamehameha princess.

THE GRAND FINALE of the wonderful summer was our Great King Kamehameha Day. We based this pageant as closely as possible on new and ancient sports of Hawaii as published in RECREATION Magazine some years back.



The author (in a muumuu) shows lei to two young beachcombers. After the water carnival leis were thrown into pool.

The herald, or *liamoku*, entered the arena and blew a conch shell. He then exited and the *kahuna*, or priest, entered chanting. He took his position to one side of the field as the king entered, preceded by a procession of eight bearers of kapu sticks, ti leaves, sugar-cane blossoms, and flower kahilis. Kapu sticks are, in effect, policemen; when they are placed before the platform, upon which sits the king and his daughter, no commoner may venture inside them.

At the proper moment the king rises and says in Hawaiian, "This is a day set aside for recreation. Now, what ever candidate wins the games will have the honor of marrying the princess." For a moment all eyes are upon the princess. Then the *kahuna* prays to the patrons of the different games and invokes their blessings.

The herald again blows his conch shell, announcing the arrival of the champions—princes—of the eight islands in the Hawaiian group. As they enter the arena they are accompanied by the herald. Every prince, with his retinue, approaches the king and his daughter and makes his obeisance. The princess refrains from indicating any favorite among the contestants.

After this ceremony, and while the princes retire to their appointed places, the king calls upon his hula dancers to perform.

Our Hawaiian program was a huge success as a fun-filled summer festival to be long remembered. #



Above left, how to age gracefully in one easy lesson. Below, recreation department's well-stocked costume workshop comes up with colonial dress. Above, a sorcerer has an audience of would-be apprentices. Right, all on a midsummer's day. Simple props, colorful costumes, a shady expanse of lawn, an eager audience—truly a "kingdom of dream and province of illusion."

Silver Bell

Children's matinees bring

A typical "matinee" consists of a play, folk songs, and folk dances presented by the children for an audience of their peers.





3 in Summer

plus values to summer activities

Maxine McSweeney

CHILDREN'S MATINEES ARE the way to such happiness and fine educational results that they qualify as a specific among recreation practices and are an important part of the summer program of the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department. A typical show consists of a play, folk songs and folk dances presented by children in a half hour program for an audience of children.

In Los Angeles, these shows are held each week at eighteen different matinee centers during July and August. Children from almost one hundred municipal community recreation centers participate in these programs. A season schedule drawn up in April gives exact

Miss MCSEENY is senior recreation director in the Los Angeles City Recreation and Parks Department.

information concerning the time and place for each group's presentation and makes possible an uninterrupted season at each of the eighteen matinee centers.

These centers, located in community recreation centers in various districts of the city, have facilities which range in size and appointments from an auditorium with a stage to a shady expanse of lawn large enough to provide a playing area and seating for the audience. All the plays are simply staged with a few stage props and screens to suggest the scene. Most of the visual effect is gained from colorful, appropriate, and well designed costumes provided by the department's costume workshop for all participants.

These participants regularly attend the classes in drama, rhythmic, and music at recreation centers nearest their homes. Here the children develop skill in the activities and rehearse the plays, group songs, and group dances of their choice until they can be presented with spirit and assurance for a local audience of playmates and relatives. After this performance at the home center, children are ready to take their program "on tour" to the nearest matinee center for their scheduled program.

TO THE well known values and pleasures that come from participation in a good rhythmic, drama, and music program, the matinee adds several of its own. It makes possible the thrill of performing a program that has been in rehearsal for about a month; it furnishes the stimulus of a new audience made up of children unknown to the young players; it gives incentive for travel to another center and for getting acquainted with the children there.

The director at the matinee center helps this get-acquainted process by telling stories, conducting games, or leading community singing for both spectators and players. Throughout the season she publicizes the matinees, so a good audience attends the performance each week. She welcomes the players on arrival, familiarizes them with the stage, and introduces local children who will give any assistance

needed. She introduces the visiting director to the audience at the opening of the program.

The material presented must be of high standard. This is particularly true of the play since it is the basis of each program. To be considered for a matinee, the play must be of good dramatic structure and contain plot and dialogue worthy of the players' efforts and the attention of the audience. Additional requisites are a large cast and a twenty-to thirty-minute playing time. Fulfilling these requirements are the several plays listed here. They represent a sampling of the plays which have been successful in the Los Angeles Children's Summer Matinees.

GOOD PLAYS may be found in each collection listed below:

Silver Bells and Cockle Shells, Marion Holbrook. National Recreation Association, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11. Pp. 60. Paper, \$35.

The Golden Bracelet in World Friendship Plays, Virginia Olcott. Out of print, consult your library.

Flowers in the Palace Garden in Every Day Plays for Home, School and Settlement, Virginia Olcott. Out of print, consult your library.

**Cabbages and Kings in Eight Little Plays for Children*, Rose Fyleman. Doubleday and Co., Garden City, New York. \$2.00.

The Bailiff's Wonderful Coat in More Legends in Action, Nellie McCaslin. Row Peter-son Co., 2500 Crawford Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. \$2.60.

**A Treasury of Plays for Children*, Montrose Moses. Little, Brown & Co., 34 Beacon Street, Boston 6. \$5.00.

Mrs. Magician's Mistake, Virginia Dixon. Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York 36. Unpaged. Paper. \$.50.

* Most of the above plays may be given without payment of royalty. However, the publishers should be contacted regarding performance of the two marked with an asterisk, since under certain circumstances they may involve payment of a small royalty.

Know you what it is to be a child?
It is . . . to be so little that elves can
reach to whisper in your ear; it is
to turn pumpkins into coaches, and
mice into horses, lowness into loftiness,
and nothing into everything,
for each child has a fairy godmother
in its soul.

—PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY.

The Lions Roar

Evansville designs a zoo wagon for use on playgrounds

Bret McGinnis



After having enjoyed a number of successful seasons from a show wagon, the recreation commission in Evansville, Indiana, began investigating the possibility of a zoo wagon. Because Evansville has one of the better zoos in the nation, the commission wished to use this advantage in coordination with its thirty-three playgrounds. This created a number of problems. First, the recreation commission, the park board, and zoological society had to cooperate in operating, scheduling, and displaying the wagon. Second, the wagon must be designed according to the type of animals available for display at the zoo. Third, the wagon must be constructed. Fourth, a source for financing the cost of construction had to be unearthed.

The superintendent of recreation first consulted the park board and Norman Clark, president of the zoological society, concerning permission to display the animals and the plan of cooperation among the three boards involved. Upon receiving permission from the three boards, the design and plans for a zoo wagon began. A number of meetings were held between zoo and recreation officials concerning the wagon's design. The group formed a number of

MR. MCGINNIS is superintendent of recreation in Evansville, Indiana, as well as president of the Evansville Central Lions Club.

conclusions before any designs were placed on paper.

1. The wagon must be portable enough to be moved easily.

2. The cages should be of two sizes.

3. The wagon must have storage space for supplies and equipment.

4. The cages should be separate and must open from the outside. Some consideration was given to placing the doors on the inside; however, because of the difficulty of handling animals in small places, the plan was discarded. Because swinging doors might be ineffective, upward sliding doors were adopted as the weight of the metal would hold the door down.

5. The roof must have overhang to counteract the straight effect of the cages.

6. For easy maintenance, the floor must slant to the outside for easy drainage, and a clean-out space should be left at the bottom of the cage.

7. The ends of the wagon should be solid and the side all barred for adequate protection and ventilation.

8. The floor must be tongue and groove to prevent splinters.

9. Awnings would be necessary for shade purposes.

10. Portable stands and a chain all around the wagon would be necessary to protect the animals.

After considerable discussion, and revisions, the design below was adopted. The overall height of the wagon is ninety-two inches and the cages are fifty-two inches high.

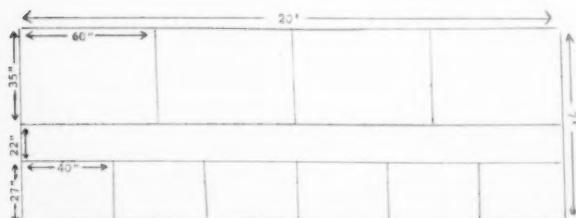
In the meantime the recreation commission decided to have its maintenance

staff build the wagon in the off-season if money were available for construction.

As the Central Lions Club is the most active civic club in Evansville, and a lion cub would be a natural for the wagon, this group was requested to become the financing partner in the operation. Realizing the potential of the operation, the club adopted the plan and became full partners to the amount of \$1,000.00, the estimated amount needed for supplies and materials.

Members of the Lions Club immediately became active. Lions Gil Bennett and Bill Epley secured a good 1954 Dodge truck frame from a junkyard at a reasonable discount. Two recreation commission maintenance employees, with the aid of a park welder, completed the job in about four months. Most of the work was performed on days of inclement weather or when vital work to the department was not necessary. Upon completion, the Lions moved the wagon to a big garage. The Lions Club held paint parties and the wagon was given two coats of paint in two nights by members.

Since then, the wagon has been displayed in parks, shopping centers, on the mall, and in a number of parades. Needless to say, the zoo wagon is an attraction to children and adults. This project became a reality because of civic and community cooperation. More important, the story reveals the importance of public relations to recreation executives and personnel. A recreation executive cannot stand alone. #



Above, plan for zoo wagon was adopted after considerable discussion and revision. Right, all set and ready to roll.





ADMINISTRATION

Summer Playground

Attendance Formula

George Butler

NO SINGLE ATTENDANCE index is applicable to all playgrounds, according to the findings of a recent study of summer playground attendance sponsored by the National Recreation Association. The study showed a wide variation in the number of persons attending playgrounds at different times of day and for different sessions. Designed to produce a satisfactory attendance formula, the study was jointly sponsored by the Association's National Advisory Committees on Administration and Research and was conducted under the guidance of a committee of ten, with Graham Skea, superintendent of recreation in East Orange, New Jersey, as chairman.

At the outset, the committee made several assumptions: (1) the visit is the most feasible and satisfactory attendance unit; (2) an actual visitor count throughout the session is impracticable; (3) a peak count is taken at most playgrounds at each session or period; and (4) a modification of the peak count is necessary to record all visits. The committee decided to follow



the same general procedure as was used in a similar study conducted by a committee of recreation executives in the summer of 1938. This entailed keeping specified records for one week at each playground participating in the study. During all periods the playground was open under leadership, a count was made each hour of (1) the number of persons entering the playground and (2) the number of persons actually on the playground. This procedure required at least one person to be at the playground throughout the week to record the data. The committee suggested the study be made during the week beginning July 11th if possible, and a majority of the playgrounds made their counts at that time.

To assure a degree of comparability of data and to prevent areas not neighbor-

hood playgrounds from being included in the study, the committee established a criteria for the participating playgrounds. These indicated that the areas be (1) between 2 and 7.5 acres; (2) developed and equipped for a variety of activities; (3) and open under leadership at least two sessions daily.

Forms were devised and distributed for use at each playground, with spaces for recording the number of persons entering the playground each hour, for the mid-hourly counts of participants and spectators, and for data on the weather and other factors affecting attendance.

RECREATION AND park authorities in eighty cities indicated a willingness to record attendance at 125 playgrounds. All sections of the country were represented by cooperating departments. Of this number sixty cities submitted reports for a total of 102 playgrounds in time for inclusion in the report. Unfortunately, data from only seventy-five playgrounds could be used; the figures in twenty-five of the reports

were useless because the person recording the attendance failed to follow instructions.

Because the forms describing the playgrounds indicated wide differences in various respects it was decided to classify the areas in four ways: by acreage; by hours of operation (morning, afternoon, and evening); by total leadership hours per week; and by number of facilities provided. It was further agreed the best basis for arriving at an attendance index or formula was to compare the number of persons enter-



ing each playground each period with the peak count for the period.

The figures submitted were analyzed for the playground groups according to the four classifications, each of which, in turn, was further subdivided. Because of the diversity in the number and types of facilities and the difficulty in determining their influence upon attendance, the data for playgrounds grouped by number of facilities was felt to be of no significance, and was not used as a basis for a committee recommendation.

The following tables contain a summary of the ratios between the peak counts and the actual visits recorded—morning, afternoon, and evening—for the participating playgrounds, according to three different groupings. (In all cases the figures in parentheses indicate the number of playgrounds.)

Playgrounds Classified by Acreage

Size	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Under 3 acres	1.98(10)	2.25(10)	2.25(6)
3-5 acres	1.70(14)	2.46(20)	1.88(15)
5-8 acres	1.93(17)	2.97(16)	1.42(9)
8 and over	1.83(18)	2.51(19)	1.71(9)

Playgrounds Classified by Leadership Hours

Under 80 per week	1.74(23)	2.06(27)	1.53(10)
80-120	1.60(14)	2.05(15)	1.27(7)
120 and over	2.07(24)	2.85(26)	2.26(19)

Playgrounds Classified by Hours of Operation

Morning:	Under 3 hours	1.68	3 hours and over	1.96
Afternoon:	4 hours or under	1.89	over 4 hours	3.01
Evening:	Under 2 hours	1.29	2 hours and over	1.94

AS THE TABLES indicate, the study revealed a wide variation in the ratio between the number of persons attending the playgrounds during morning, afternoon, and evening sessions and the peak counts at these sessions, in the case of playgrounds of different sizes, hours of operation, and leadership hours. Therefore, the committee proposed that, wherever possible, the attendance at each individual playground should be based upon a combination of the ratios determined by the study for playgrounds of similar size, hours of operation, and hours of leadership. By way of illustration, a playground of six acres operated with a total of one hundred leadership hours per week and open three hours per morning would have morning ratios of 1.93; 1.60; and 1.96; respectively, or an average of 1.83. To determine the morning attendance (number of visits) at this playground the peak count would be multiplied by 1.83.

To apply the recommended ratios in a locality, the authorities at the beginning of the summer would assign to each playground its individual morning, afternoon, and evening indices, based on its size, leadership, and hours of operation. A peak count of the number present on the playground would be recorded each morning, afternoon, or evening session.

The committee recommends that attendance reports entered by the playground directors should contain only the actual peak counts and that application of the various indices to determine total attendance be a function of the central office. Such a procedure would help eliminate mistakes and misunderstandings, and is especially important in localities where a different attendance index is assigned each playground.

In cities where playgrounds are similar in size, leadership, and hours of operation, or where lack of office personnel makes it impossible to keep more

Continued on Page 208

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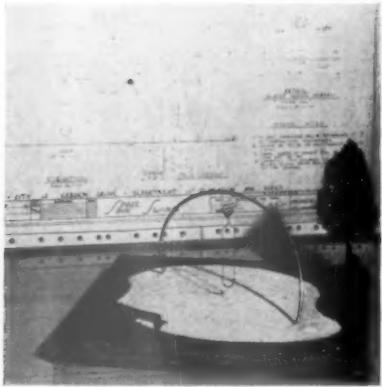
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FROM DREAM TO DRAWING BOARD

Gene Rotsch



Children will twist swing chains! A model of the new space-spin rotating swing unit shown with working drawing.

ARE YOUR PLAYGROUNDS a dream come true? Do they reflect the individuality of your city? Are they designed to best utilize the size and shape of the site and best suit the needs and characteristics of the individual neighborhood? In Garden Grove, California, the answer is, "Yes, indeed!"

Garden Grove has had to plan and act fast. The population of this relatively new community has increased 520 percent in nine years, more than doubled in the past four. At this rate, saturation, estimated at a hundred and fifty thousand, will take place in a few short years.

Fortunately, the administration and the City Council had the foresight to negotiate the purchase of a forty-acre park site from the federal government, even before the initiation of the recreation and parks department. This park is now in its third phase of development. The city also owns, and has redeveloped, a small neighborhood-type park, and acquisition of more neighborhood sites is under way in various sections of the city. The recreation and parks department also administers the city-wide community program with a thirty thousand weekly summer attendance in cooperation with the three local school districts. Nevertheless, the greatest problem is still acquiring and developing additional park and recreation facilities.

Garden Grove's dedicated professional staff includes a graduate landscape designer and a park superintendent who has literally grown up with horticulture and maintenance. We design and construct most of our own equipment, adapting it to individual situations. In our basic approach to equipment design three factors are always considered: play value and aesthetic appeal; safety for participants, and ease of maintenance and durability. We do not attempt to create play apparatus simply for innovation but to eliminate shortcomings of equipment that receives only minimal use after it

MR. ROTSCHE, director of the recreation and parks department in Garden Grove, California, is well known to RECREATION readers for his success in designing his own functional playground equipment.

ADMINISTRATION



Cantilevered children's swing unit gives youngsters a feeling of completely free suspension. Angle of pipe also discourages children climbing the columns.

has been purchased and installed. We place play value ahead of safety in our preliminary research and design. Safety, alone, is not enough! A completely safe piece of play apparatus which is not used is still a poor expenditure of the tax dollar.

With every new piece of equipment designed we make an exact model to scale. This is of great value in eliminating possible design errors. We have yet to experience any major alterations in our completed equipment. Another advantage of constructing scale models is that they present a complete picture of the equipment, difficult to visualize on an engineer's working drawing.

WE ADAPT IDEAS from all over. A spherical climbing unit used in Sweden inspired our "atomic climber." Frankly, we have never attempted to put this design on paper because the multitude of angles, curves, and pipe intersections would make it very difficult to portray in a technical drawing. Thus, in building three atomic climbers, the one-inch scale model had to be taken to the field and physically scaled as construction progressed. This unit has been so popular that we intend to utilize it at new parks throughout the city wherever it fits the design theme. The combination of a sphere with angles and free-run curves presents a challenge to a child each time he steps on it and we have counted as many as



New picnic shelters are shaded by redwood lathes, feature functional steel-and-concrete table and bench units.

eighteen youngsters on the first unit at one time.

The cantilever principle has many different applications. To date, we have applied this principle to two pieces of recreation equipment. One of them, a baseball backstop, was developed after much research. We discovered that most foul balls do not go straight over the catcher's head, but tend to follow a course of 30° to 45° off the batter's right or left shoulder. Accordingly, our design includes wings or projections jutting up to a forty-foot height on either side of the backstop. The dipping of the V design at the top of this unit is thirty feet above grade and purposely left open so the catcher may easily field high pop-up flies. The angles of the back and top panels give the catcher a play on a ball that might have been unplayable with the standard backstop. We are very happy with the favorable comments from athletes and managers playing on the field where this unit is installed and have been approached by commercial builders and professional baseball organizations regarding the design.

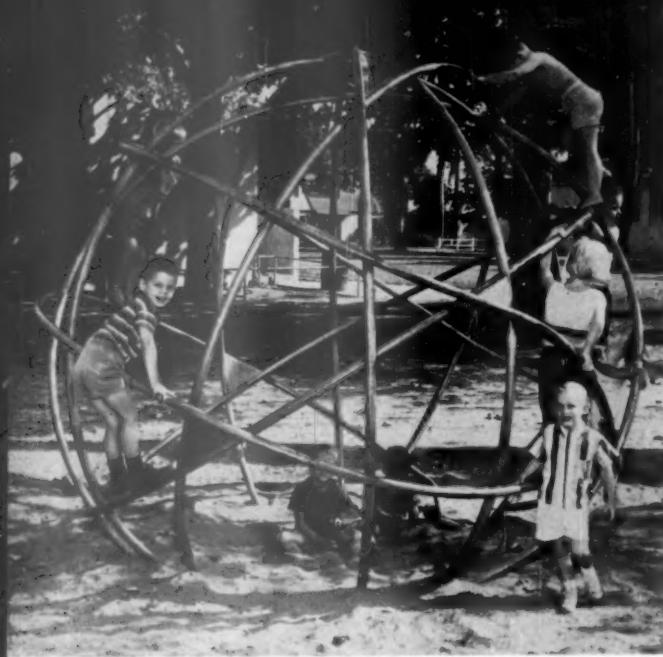
The cantilever principle can also ap-

ply to playground swings. Numerous approaches have been taken to this ever-popular piece of equipment, but in all of them a direct association with the earth was necessary, as the supporting members were embedded in the ground. We felt this dissipated the thrill in swinging. Our new design for swings uses extra heavy five-inch structural pipe and the member to which our swings are attached is twelve feet above grade and supports five swing units. The supports for this pipe beam are embedded in heavy concrete footings at a 60° angle behind the swings to give children a feeling of completely free suspension. We found the large size of the pipe and the angle at which it is anchored greatly discourages climbing of the columns. Also, the hanger beam for this fifteen-foot-wide unit is angled outward three feet on each side where the columns enter the ground, eliminating any possibility of a youngster swinging into the columns.

QUR THREE NEW picnic shelters at Garden Grove City Park reflect an increased use of steel as part of design. The units, designed for sixty persons

each, are designed with a dividing wall down the center. Three tables and bench sets are located on either side of the wall, and the wall of each unit is of a different material: concrete block, wire-cut red brick, and slumpstone. All units are of similar basic design and floor plan, but the shape and surface treatment of the slab, arrangement of tables and individual color schemes, are varied. Separated 2"-by-2" redwood lath which offers partial shade with a filtered sunlight pattern, shelters the units. The table and bench sets are constructed of steel angles and pipe and the tops of both tables and benches are framed with inverted angles into which solid concrete has been poured.

The green cement is treated with a hardening compound and is finally finished with a tile-like polyester-base plastic enamel. This surface treatment hardens to almost the consistency of baked vitreous clay tile, yet it may be applied with spray, brush, or roller. It is a vandal-resistant, durable surface, that is easily cleaned, has no seams to retain food particles and other soil, is impervious to grease, alkalis, and stains. The tables and benches are sup-



Above, atomic climber unit. Solid portions are gaily painted steel plate to lend visual interest and prevent injury to children. Above right, the author with one-inch scale model of the atomic climber and quarter-inch scale model of the special baseball backstop. Both were put together and details corrected prior to actual construction. Right, the cantilevered backstop, forty feet high at outside wings.

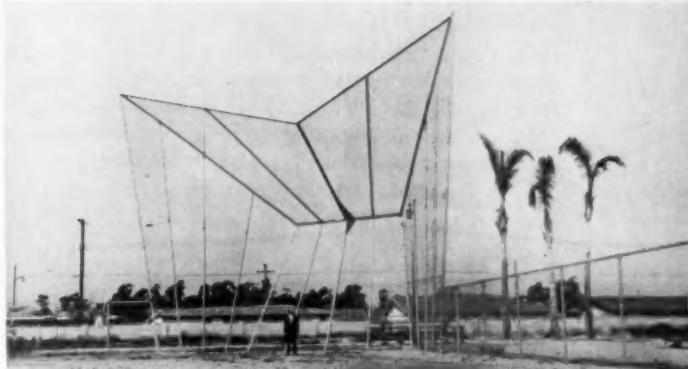
ported by pipe columns of a modern, curved design set in the concrete slab. The bench legs curve away from the table and a single-leg support at opposite ends of table assumes a reverse curve, allowing adequate knee and foot clearance. Here, the cantilever principle gives a light airy feeling to the heavy steel-and-concrete tables.

The shelter units were designed for individual families rather than large-group picnics and table arrangements and cooking facilities have been handled accordingly. Each shelter is equipped with a freshwater faucet, sink, garbage container hidden under self-closing doors in the counter, and electrical outlets. Cooking is done on large galvanized steel barbecue braziers which are placed on each side of each of the individual shelters.

AWARE OF a child's urge to twist the chains on a swing while seated in it, then allow the chains to unwind and spin them, we designed a swing specifically for that purpose. The heart of the design is a one-and-a-half-ton working load swivel unit connecting two hanger brackets. The principle seemed excel-

lent, but swings with this feature cannot be mounted too close to other swings for fear of collision. Therefore, we decided upon a single swing suspended from a twelve-foot radius arched support. The arch curve reverses itself at top-center to provide additional visual interest and strength and the supporting arch allows complete freedom of swinging. Economically, it might seem that a great amount of space is consumed for a single swing unit. However, we feel that the play value over a period of time will more than compensate for this, and the unit is actually inexpensive to construct.

ALL OF Garden Grove's new play apparatus is designed around a given theme, and a single area rarely contains more than four or five separate play units. For example, Space Age is the theme on the current play development at Garden Grove City Park. It contains the cantilevered swing unit, two atomic climbers (one nine foot in diameter and one six foot for toddlers), and a new concept in slides. The possibilities of new themes are as varied as one's imagination. Quite often, we attempt to



select one which best fits the neighborhood surrounding a park. The principle involved is as basic as that of general city planning. The professional planner would hardly allow five or six different land-uses in a single city block.

All the equipment mentioned has been designed in our own department and constructed by members of our parks division staff except the backstop and picnic shelters which were contracted. We work as a team from the time a pencil touches paper until the units are completed. We feel fortunate in having well qualified craftsmen in our parks division crew to economically construct units designed by this office.

Although our designs are legally protected from infringement, we are happy to share them with other public recreation and parks agencies. Working drawings of equipment are available at cost if requested in writing on letter-head stationery and signed by the nominal head of department. However, we hope we may have inspired some other small departments, such as our own, to embark upon a do-it-yourself equipment development program custom-made for their locale. #

STATE AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENTS

Elvira Delany

ALABAMA. A contribution of \$54,500 from the West Point Foundation to the Chambers County Board of Education will make possible the development of the Rehobeth Recreation Center in *Fairfax*. The project includes a game room and large multipurpose clubroom to be connected with the existing kitchen. The facility has been designed to serve patrons and students of Rehobeth School and other community groups within the area. Target date for completion is July.

CALIFORNIA. The *Twenty-nine Palms Park and Recreation District* is busily developing its local park. In addition to the two swimming pools and the tennis courts already in existence, plans call for two lighted baseball fields, a natural amphitheater which will seat fifteen hundred, three adventure areas for youngsters, a quiet area which will offer such facilities as lawn bowling, shuffleboard, a sheltered picnic area and barbecue installations. Eventually the park will have a lighted water fountain, an artificial lake which will serve as a multipurpose unit and assist in the water supply of the park, arbored walkway, expansion of pool facilities to include a "muscle-beach" type area, a snack bar, expanded deck facilities, and a totlot. The district has also worked out arrangements with the schools, the local Marine Corps base, and the churches for use of their facilities when idle.



In *Los Angeles*, a revolving "lookout" will be constructed atop 1,600-foot Mt. Hollywood in *Griffith Park* (see photograph of model, left). The facility's cost will be partially

defrayed by funds available from the *Griffith Trust*, set up in the will of Colonel Griffith J. Griffith, pioneer civic leader, who donated to *Los Angeles* most of the 4,000-acre park which bears his name. The interior of the structure will slowly revolve, offering a sweeping view of the entire *Los Angeles* Metropolitan area.

KANSAS. The recreation commission in *Parsons* is nearing its goal of establishing the first permanent recreation center in the city's history. Five recent developments assure

a new recreation building by June 1:

- The local "Teen Town," an organization which has continued to function since the days of World War II, has voted to disband and permit the recreation commission to provide services it formerly offered. In so doing, the organization voted its entire accumulated bank balance of \$2,500 to the commission to help finance the purchase of a new center building.
- The local Kiwanis Club board of directors voted to allocate the entire proceeds of its 1961 Pancake Day, an amount somewhere between \$1,200 and \$1,500, toward the purchase of a building for recreation.
- The Southwestern Bell Telephone Company of Kansas has granted the recreation commission a first option to purchase the office and business it will vacate soon after April 1, 1961. It has also indicated that the company, in keeping with its policy of supporting community wide projects of this type, will make a contribution toward the purchase of the building.
- The Parsons Board of Education in special session has agreed to accept title to the building and will underwrite all maintenance and repairs on the structure. This has been agreed to, even though the recreation commission will retain complete control over its use at all times.
- In addition, Walter Sengpiel, a local merchant and veteran of many civic drives and endeavors, has agreed to conduct the fund raising campaign.

OHIO. Darby Creek Metropolitan Park in the *Columbus Metropolitan Park District*, opened to the public last year, has become a favorite retreat for family picnics and group outings, according to the *Metropolitan Park News*. Although development of the 111-acre area was begun only a year ago, the entrance road and four parking areas are completed and paved with blacktop; five picnic areas have been cleared and graded; and picnic tables, outdoor grills, and toilets have been installed. Electric lighting is also being installed in picnic areas. Many acres of play areas have been graded and seeded and playground equipment is being installed. Construction of picnic shelters will be completed next year. A foot trail goes over wooded ridges and bottom land and along the steep banks of Big Darby Creek where there are scenic overlooks.

- The city of *Hamilton* has received a two hundred-acre site, worth about \$400,000, for a public recreation area from Dwight J. Thomson, chairman of the board of directors of the Champion Paper and Fibre Company, as a memorial to the company's past presidents. This gift increases by almost a full third the total space devoted to municipal recreation facilities in *Hamilton* and is said to be the largest gift ever made to the city. The site, which is the heart of the Thomson Contentment Farm, will eventually include playgrounds, picnic areas, nature trails, bridle paths, as well as an eighteen-hole municipal golf course. Also included in the gift are a number of modern buildings on the property. Among the company's past presidents was Mr. Thomson's father, Logan Thomson, active in city affairs throughout his life, and Reuben B. Robertson, Jr., a Deputy Secretary of Defense.

NEW MEXICO. Thirty-six hundred acres of surplus Atomic Energy Commission lands in the northwestern part of the state have been transferred to Bandelier National Monument. The area contains unexcavated Indian ruins; Bandelier is one of the major centers of Pueblo cultures.

TEXAS. *Houston* recently dedicated its new downtown recreation center. The building features a double basketball



court divided by an electrically operated sliding door which can be rolled back to make one exhibition-type floor complete with bleachers. It is equipped with an excellent craft workshop and two game-meeting rooms as well as a modern kitchen. A fenced and paved patio includes a terrazzo shuffleboard court. The patio is attractively landscaped and a soothing respite amidst the bustle of Houston's central business area.

Austin expects its new pool and bathhouse at Bartholomew Park to be completed by June 1. Cost of the pool and bathhouse totals \$189,000 with other site improvements raising cost of the project to \$227,985. The 11,970-square-foot pool will meet NCAA standards and will have an eight-lane, fifty-yard course for competitive swimming. The L-shaped pool will be 150'-by-60' with a 40'-by-43' diving area at the bottom of the L. There will also be a 25'-by-50' wading pool.

In *Dallas*, twelve new picnic shelters at North Lake Park will have hyperbolic-paraboloid roofs and concrete floors. In *Lubbock*, the park and recreation department is justly proud of the new Maxey Community Center. At present, the center includes a recreation building and a swimming pool. The building, which contains approximately six thousand square feet, cost \$54,000.

WISCONSIN. A newly created Regional Planning Commission for seven southeastern counties will direct the development of recreation areas, natural resources, transportation, and handle related problems. It will employ a full-time planning expert. The counties are Milwaukee, Washington, Ozaukee, Waukesha, Racine, Kenosha, and Walworth, all drawing a heavy influx of tourists from the Chicago metropolitan area. The commission is the first of its kind in the state; others are expected to be created for the Fox River Valley, the Wisconsin Rapids, and the Beloit areas.

• Work has commenced on the long-awaited McKinley Beach Marina in *Milwaukee*. This is the first phase of a \$478,000 project primarily to provide adequate ramping facilities. When finished, the marina is expected to accommodate 1250 ramp users and enough parking space for nine hundred cars and trailers.

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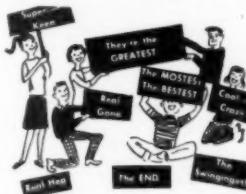
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RESEARCH BRIEFS

George Butler

Analysis of School-Center Programs

THE DEPARTMENT of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education in Milwaukee, which has a long record of successful operation of school centers, has made an analysis of its center programs for the 1958-1959 and 1959-1960 seasons. Each center's program consists of two parts—the "core" program of nonmembership activities, common to all centers, and a supplementary program, determined by the expressed interest of the individual neighborhood. Consequently, no two programs are identical. Purpose of the analysis was to determine what programs should be abandoned and which centers should be operated additional or fewer evenings or afternoon periods or discontinued entirely. It took into account minimum attendance requirements and established program standards which cover the number of sessions and the different types of activities to be conducted per week.

Results of the study are published in a bulletin entitled *Analysis of Social Center Programs*. It contains tables, re-

cording for each center data on the number of afternoon and evening sessions, "core" and total attendance figures and their relation to required standards. Separate tables contain comparative figures for centers operated three and five evenings per week.

The study formed the basis for a number of conclusions. For example, the five-night (full-time) centers, as compared with those operated two and three nights weekly, showed a significantly greater mean attendance and a core program that more closely approximated the standard. It also indicated that centers tending to rank high in one statistic tended to rank high in all; that is, core activity, total attendance, etcetera, within each table.

Recommendations resulting from the study included such proposals as:

- Utilize more rooms when a social center is operating, with fewer sessions but more intensified use of facilities. "Center activities should not be relegated to basement or other specific floor rooms because of operational factors."
- Develop one or more additional full-time centers over a period of years, utilizing selected personnel and facilities to the fullest extent.
- Reorient full-time personnel as to function to eliminate core program instability and lack of indigenously led activities.
- Expand the use of after-school programs.
- Include in staff one person responsible for development of family programs and development of programs for the handicapped.
- Develop more indigenous leadership, steering committees, and local councils to extend programs without adding to leadership costs.

The Milwaukee study represents an example of the self-analysis essential for every recreation department that wishes to assure the continued effective operation of its various facilities and services.

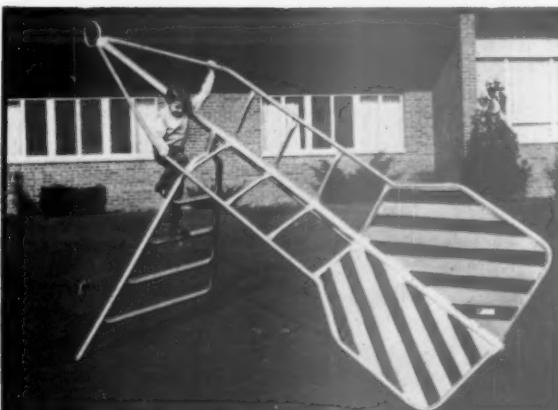
Senior Citizens in the Swim

A RESEARCH project co-sponsored by the UAW (United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America) Recreation Department and Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, was designed to determine:

- The educability of senior citizens as learners of swimming.
- Methods of class organization and conduct.
- The appeal of swimming to the participants.
- General effects of participation in the swimming experiment.

Senior citizens who were members of the UAW Recreation Department's Retired Workers Center served as subjects of the experiment which was conducted at a department of parks and recreation pool. Mean age of the twenty-three subjects—none of whom had previously had formal instruction in swimming—was 69½ years. Following the completion of the classes, the learners' skill was evaluated by the instructor and their attitude toward the swimming experience was determined by questionnaire and interview. Among the conclusions were:

Continued on Page 208



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RECREATION DIGEST

Child welfare needs more concern, not more laws

Children's Behavior

Edward H. Stullken

READING THE DAILY press and current magazines could lead many of us to assume that the problem of children's behavior's is not only a pressing one but that it is peculiar to the present generation. Yet an Egyptian priest almost six thousand years ago wrote on the walls of a tomb that "children no longer obey their parents." Socrates wrote a paragraph over twenty-four hundred years ago that said, "Children have bad manners, contempt for authority, show disrespect for elders and tyrannize over their teachers." Mark Twain, the American humorist, capitalized on the problem boys of his generation by leaving us the delightful stories of the mischievous escapades of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. It must

be pointed out, however, that the modern city prototype of the original Tom and Huck are not engaged in harmless fishing expeditions, playing pirate on the Mississippi, nor exploring haunted limestone caves when truanting from school and running away from home.

Much has been written and said about the increase in juvenile delinquency in recent years, particularly in the last five years. The most recent statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that the greatest increase in crimes has occurred among the youth of the country, and that it has been greatest in the small incorporated and unincorporated areas as compared to the larger cities.

but a symptom picture of underlying conditions, the roots of which may be found in the home life, the school adjustment, or the environmental background of the community, and sometimes in physiological aspects of the child's personality. In dealing with behavior problems one must deal with the problem of a symptom which may have any one or more of many different causes. Moreover, in dealing with bad behavior one does not correct the problem until fundamental causes are found and corrected or alleviated even though some measures may temporarily allay the symptom.

In the second place, a child's behavior must be studied from more than one point of view. It is a misconception to assume that there is only one way of considering delinquency. Certainly one must consider not only the behavior but the child as well. A juvenile may steal because he is hungry; he may steal because it is more exciting than doing something better; he may steal to please some adult, even a parent; he may steal

Condensed and reprinted with permission from The Welfare Bulletin of the Illinois Department of Public Welfare (January-February-March 1960). DR. STULLKEN is principal of the Montefiore Special School (for maladjusted children), Chicago.

because he is a kleptomaniac; or he may steal something for no discoverable reason.

In the third place, one must consider causal factors. Many believe that bad behavior has definite causes. Some blame poverty, others slum conditions, and still others find the cause within warped personalities. One reads that the home or the parents are to blame, that the school and teachers are at fault, or that the churches have in some way failed to meet the needs of modern youth. The lack of recreation facilities,

the increased amount of leisure time, the laws making it impossible for children under sixteen or seventeen years of age to go to work have been cited as causes.

Progressive education with its increased freedom for pupils in modern schools, even modern religion with less emphasis upon hell fire and damnation, have been blamed. Modern urban society with its increased facilities for communication, with better and faster means of transportation, with greater concentration of population—quite dif-

ferent from the rural life of a generation or two ago—has to some writers and speakers caused the present problem. Delinquent parents, broken homes, bad politicians, insufficient police protection, the presence of adult vice and crime often are mentioned. The movies, the comic books, television and radio programs, filthy literature, and suggestive art are other causes given.

We read that the parents should be educated; that parents should be punished; that curfews should be established to keep juveniles off the streets; that better houses, better schools, more neighborhood agencies and more recreation facilities should be provided; that radio, movies, television, children's literature, particularly comic books, should be censored; that juveniles should not drink nor drive automobiles and that many other things should or should not be done if delinquency is to be prevented or reduced.

In general, I believe that we do not need more laws but more concern for the welfare of children. We should capitalize on the general concern that is felt regarding juvenile delinquency and try to direct the activities of interested citizens into those channels that seem at the present time to offer the best means for dealing with the problem. Facilities, procedures, educational and other programs should be increased and improved, remembering that good conduct is caught quite as much as it is taught.

The tubercular child profits from the sale of Christmas seals, the crippled child profits from the Easter seals, the polio victim from the March of Dimes, the mentally retarded from the activities of the national organization interested in their care, but the maladjusted child, the disturbed child, the truant, the incorrigible and the delinquent child has few friends. He not only evokes no sympathy but arouses feelings of anger and resentment and a desire to do something to him instead of for him.

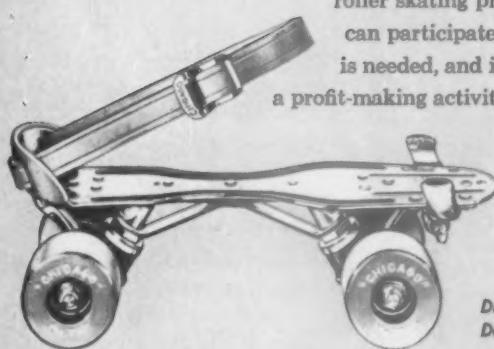
When the general public attitude toward misbehavior is changed from thinking in constructive ways about his welfare and about ways in which he can be helped then we will make real progress in solving the problem of children's behavior. #



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A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Basketball Clinic



Among the events at the free basketball clinic sponsored recently by the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department was an exhibition game between the 20th Century Fox movie and TV stars and the Los Angeles Rams. Below, Pat Boone (left) of the Hollywood squad and the Ram's Les Richter wait for the first tipoff. The man with the ball is George Hjelte, general manager of the department, who was himself an all-star center during his playing days at the University of California at Berkeley. Above, James McKanna (right), sports director of Hughes Aircraft, accepts the championship award of the West District Industrial League in behalf of his winning squad. Herm Alber, president of the city's recreation and park commission, makes the award as William Frederickson, Jr., superintendent of recreation, looks on.



Stamps for Friendship

The New Orleans Recreation Department is staging a month-long contest on playgrounds and in centers in which youngsters vie to bring in the most cancelled stamps for the "Stamps for Recreation" project of the National Advisory Committee for International Services of the National Recreation Association. Winners at each facility will be honored at the close of the drive in April, says G. Gernon Brown, NORD executive assistant director, and member of the NRA Committee.

The stamps are being collected in order to help the Skrammellegepladsen playground in Copenhagen, Denmark, raise funds for the maintenance and operation of a new recreation building on its grounds (see *Recreation*, February 1961, Page 88).

Tenting Tonight?

- A family camping weekend workshop will be held in High Point, North Carolina, April 22-23, sponsored by High Point College in association with the High Point Department of Parks and Recreation. Nationally known camping leaders will take part in the instruction and demonstrations during this weekend. Jesse Taylor, director of parks and recreation in High Point, and members of the North Carolina Recreation Commission will also be on hand to explain the how, where, why, and when of camping. The workshop will take place on the college campus as well as at City Lake in High Point.
- A special camp for senior Boy Scouts who have skills in the sciences is being set up at Wingdale, New York, by the Siwanoy-Bronx Valley Council. The Wingdale camp is a one hundred-acre tract formerly a dude ranch. Cost of the land and buildings for science camp was \$116,200.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Six outstanding career civil servants have been selected to receive the 1960-1961 Rockefeller Public Service Awards to be presented in April for contributions in the areas of general administration, science and technology, law and regulation, and conservation and resources. In the last category the two winners are: **Dr. Richard E. McArdle**, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and **Conrad L. Wirth**, director of the National Park Service. Winners must

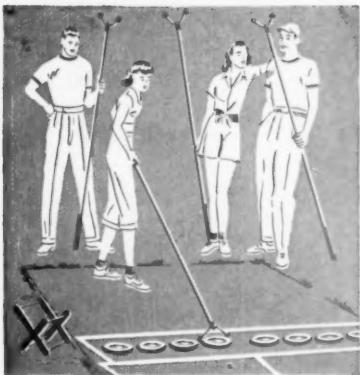


Conrad Wirth

have had a minimum of fifteen years of public service and be at least forty-five years old. In addition to receiving a \$3500 award, each winner is also privileged, if he so desires, to make available the knowledge his years of service have given him by devoting some time to lecturing, writing, conducting a research program at a university of his choice, or engaging in some other educational endeavor. Furthermore, the awards permit additional grants on which the winners may draw to allow fulfillment of their projects.



Selwyn Orcutt, director of recreation in Fayetteville, North Carolina, has been made an honorary member of "America's Guard of Honor" for his contributions towards promoting "the excellent relationship which exists between Fayetteville and Fort Bragg" and establishing good will



Shuffleboard Fun For Everyone!

From 8 to 80 here is exciting recreation for all ages . . . keen enjoyment for players and spectators.

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These multi-purpose wardrobe racks go wherever needed or store away like folding chairs when not in use. They come in 3 ft. or 4 ft. lengths, have two hat shelves and 1 or 2 full length hanger bars, for coat hangers or coat hooks. Two-sided hooks snap over and straddle the bar, see detail. Standard units come on glides, casters; stand rigidly under a full load. CHECKERETTES are also available in two-sided units (double capacity); add-on units for making long continuous racks, and matching wall mount units.

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within the civilian-military community. Mr. Orcutt is a member of the Army Advisory Committee in Fayetteville.

V. E. "Gene" Rotsch recently received a Pi Sigma Epsilon (National Recreation Fraternity) award for "outstanding contribution in the field of original design of play apparatus and new concepts of layout and design." This was the first award of this type from the fraternity. (For some of Mr. Rotsch's original play apparatus, see his article on Page 193.)

Conservation Service Awards of the Department of the Interior were awarded recently to: the National Geographic Society; Mrs. Gertrude Glutsch Jensen, of Portland, Oregon; the Parker Valley Soil Conservation District in Parker, Arizona; and William W. Hawkins, Dillon, Montana. The awards are made annually to private organizations and citizens for outstanding achievement in furthering natural resource conservation programs of the Department of the Interior.

Lillian Summers, national recreation consultant of the American Red Cross, recently received one of the two special citations given each year by the North Carolina Recreation Society for services to recreation. Miss Summers began her recreation career as a YWCA camp counsellor. She was a district supervisor of forty-eight counties in Tennessee for the Works Project Administration. She has served the ARC as recreation worker, recreation consultant, area recreation consultant, and now as national recreation consultant. She is also editor of *Intercom*, the ARC's bimonthly recreation newsletter.

Gerald Heitman, director of recreation in Alden, New York, has been named Citizen of the Year by the Kiwanis in recognition of his "efforts and many hours of devotion to the Alden recreation program [considered] one of the best small town recreation programs in the country . . . juvenile delinquency is practically nonexistent largely due to (his) program."

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society at its recent annual award luncheon presented a Silver Cornelius Amory Pugsley medal to

Harold W. Lathrop, director of Colorado state parks, "for sustained and effective leadership in the field of parks and recreation, especially for his outstanding accom-

plishments in the planning and direction of state park systems in Colorado, and for his widespread counsel and guidance through the National Conference on State Parks and the National Recreation Association."

The society's Bronze Pugsley medal was awarded to **Louis Benjamin Houston** in recognition of his significant contribution to the city of Dallas "by developing a park system whose recreational facilities reflect the experience and professional excellence of one dedicated to the enhancement of the public's enjoyment of its leisure time in municipal surroundings." Joseph Prendergast, executive director of the National Recreation Association, accepted the medal in behalf of Mr. Houston.

The Horace Marden Albright Medal, for the Honorable **William Orville Douglas**, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, was accepted for him by Anthony Wayne Smith, executive secretary of the National Parks Association. This medal was awarded to Justice Douglas for dynamic leadership and tireless effort in the cause of conservation.

Mrs. Randolph Guggenheim, the only woman to serve on the New York City Planning Commission, was honored recently both as a city official as a volunteer leader in welfare activities. She received a plaque commemorating her "distinguished service" with the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. Mrs. Guggenheim has been a volunteer worker in the federation for twenty-nine years and chairman of the women's division board since 1958. She is also a vice-president and trustee of the federation.



STATE SOCIETY NEWS

NEW JERSEY

The former Public Recreation Association of New Jersey recently changed its constitution to unify organization and cooperation among New Jersey recreation and park directors and departmental personnel. A new title for the organization was included in the changeover: New Jersey Recreation and Parks Society, Inc. Its membership shall be designated as active professional, retired professional, and associate.

Officers for the year are: President, Carl J. Perina, Irvington; First Vice-President, David C. Goodwin, Trenton; Second Vice-President, Donald V. Joyce, Tenafly; Secretary, Ralph S. Cryder, Red Bank; and Treasurer, Joseph J. Bannon, Leonia.

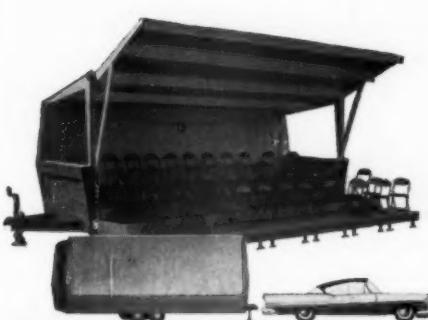
RHODE ISLAND

New officers of the Rhode Island Recreation Society are: President, Louis Cimini of North Providence; Vice-President, Walter Henry of Warwick; and Treasurer, Gerald H. Cox of Peace Dale (South Kingston).

Obituaries

• Homer Fish, superintendent of parks in Wheeling, West Virginia, died recently after twenty-five years of service to Wheeling. During his administration, Oglebay Park was developed from a country estate of 750 acres to a municipal park of over one thousand acres—with picnic sites, nature trails, bridle paths, golf course, tennis courts, swimming pool, arboretum, and numerous other facilities. Under his guidance, too, the parks expanded and improved without any additional cost to the taxpayers of the city. His work over the years with the Wheeling park system made it one of the nation's finest.

• Frank P. Langsdorf, assistant recreation director for the Milwaukee County Park Commission, died recently at the age of fifty-eight. Mr. Langsdorf had been with the county program since 1929. He was a past-president of the Wisconsin Amateur Baseball Congress and a past-president of the Big 11 Recreation Association.



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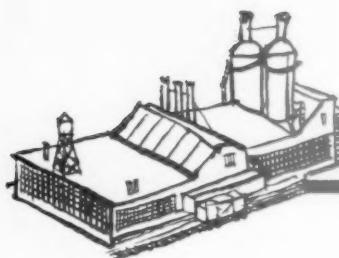
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MARKET NEWS

For further information regarding any of the products discussed below, simply circle its corresponding key number on coupon on facing color page and mail to us.

• Hard-to-get-at tree stumps can create quite a problem. New model stump cutter moves the largest stumps to a depth of six inches below the surface of the ground. Remaining hole can be refilled with dirt and chips; the roots will rot by themselves. The cutting wheel, which shreds stumps in minutes, is mounted on an arm that moves hydraulically from side to side across the stump. Three hydraulic control levers operate the entire unit. Powered by an eighteen horsepower THD engine, the cutter trails easily and the hitch is equipped with rollers for hand moving. For information, circle #100.

• Telescopic gym seats solve some of the problems involved in installing bleachers in any area. A skyscraper-like, free-standing steel superstructure provides unusual safety for capacity loads. Each seat board of the nine row, sixteen foot sections supports four hundred pounds of weight per lineal foot, far in excess of actual requirements, without noticeable deflection. Each row rests on eight vertical



steel angle uprights that place the entire seated load directly on the floor. Although seat sections are bolted to the wall, the wall bears no load and requires no reinforcing or extra structural strengthening. Cross members are bolted and welded to form an extremely rigid unit. Straight-line opening and closing of seats is assured by steel telescoping sleeves under each seatboard and by self-aligning steel housings for the retractable rubber-cushioned rollers welded to the bottoms of each pair of vertical uprights. For more information, circle #101.

• Music on the move—a semi-automatic hi-fi record player, designed for use in cars, is ideal for buses, show wagons, boats, and other mobile units. Use it en route to and from day camps, picnics, and outings. The 45-rpm unit is safe to use when driving and easy to operate, even by children. Operates off six- or twelve-volt car batteries and has a power consumption of only fifty milliwatts for negligible battery drain, is distortion-free under any load and driving conditions, weighs nine and a quarter pounds. Shock absorbers compensate for sharp turns, accelerating, or bad roads without affecting records, amplifier provides volume control. Microphone can be added to amplifier to make a public-address unit. For information, circle #102.

• A line marker, for making basketball courts and other play areas, makes single lines 2 1/2" to 5" wide, holds eleven gallons. Optional equipment on models includes timer for intermittent line, which is completely adjustable for accurate retracing, hand spraygun and hoses, operator's seat, and tilt-type transporting trailer. For pamphlets describing markers for every purpose and budget, circle #103.

• Missile kite is plastic, inflatable, and will soar in winds as low as three mph. Has been the subject of tests and study



by a University of Minnesota aeronautical engineering professor. Comes with a winding reel, five-hundred feet of cord, instructions, and educational material on aerodynamics.

Great for use in your space science programs. For information, circle #104.

• A new coin-operated lock can be set to collect any desired fee for checking personal possessions and to vary the fee as conditions necessitate changes in checking charges. It can even be set to operate without a coin or to hold the coin for automatic return when the user returns the key. The lock is easily adjustable to work with any of seven coins from a penny to a half-dollar and a choice of two tokens for odd-sum fees.

For the confusion of cheaters who are accustomed to using steel or iron slugs or folded cardboard to get free service from coin-operated locks, the inventor built in a feature which enables them to lock the lock, but not to unlock it. The various new features—specified by recreation professionals—have been over a year in engineering and development and for three months in breakdown tests. For information, check #105.

• New lightweight starting platforms will add a splash of color and decor to many swimming meets this year. Molded from fiberglass-reinforced plastic, the platforms are available in sets of eight colors to match the score cards of timers and judges. They were developed by Goodyear in response to requests from aquatic-event officials. Because they are hollow, the warp-proof, rot-proof platforms are easy to stack for storage. Delivered with square-cut bases, they can be fitted quickly to any pool deck contour with simple hand tools and can be firmly anchored with one bolt or screw at the rear of the base.

Impervious to fading or discoloration from sun or chlorinated water, the platform is fungus resistant and may be cleaned and disinfected with ordinary detergents, according to the company. Pilot models were tested by AAU and NCAA competitors at various meets. Other tests included long exposure to the sun in Arizona, a state where 110 degrees is considered "normal" in the summer. For more information, circle #106.

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TRADE MART

FREE AIDS

The following Free AIDS briefly describe resources—catalogs, brochures, films, booklets, services available, samples, and so on—to help the recreation leaders. Circle the key number following any item about which you want more information. Cut out the coupon, insert in envelope, and mail.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

BALLOON TOYS. Youngsters can color cardboard panels, combine them with colorful balloons to create funny collections of balloon people, animals, and vehicles. Particularly good for youngsters (or the young in heart whatever age) whose physical activity is restricted. For explanation about this, circle #120.

FOR YOUR HANSELS AND GRETELs. A gingerbread house made of pegboard panels and fixtures for hanging on candy, gifts, and prizes. Collapsible for fast, easy set-up during games, rest hours. Resists extremes in temperature and humidity, can be nailed, bolted, screwed, and glued. For instructions circle #121.

BALL AND CHAIN CRAFTS add bounce to your program. Colorful glass balls make delightful and inexpensive costume jewelry. This is among the new craft ideas offered by a long-established company with warehouses across the country for quick service. For complete catalogue of projects and supplies, circle #122.

THE TEENS ARE AN AGE . . . a way of life . . . a time of discovery. A sparkling booklet called *Talenteens* tells how to make cards for all occasions, party decorations, remnant crafts; also gives ideas for party fare, and quick-fix "handouts" for hiking trips, as well as food for thought. For copy, circle #123.

WOOFING AND WARPING? Hand weaving supply company offers complete service—looms and accessories, a wide range of yarns (cotton, linen, wool, metallic, and miscellaneous blends in a rainbow of colors). For catalogue and samples of yarns, circle #124.

AUDIO VISUAL

SONGS OF INSECTS, voices in the night (frogs and toads), sounds of termites wood tapping and otters chittering are among nature recordings offered by a company which also has a wide selection of books on birds, animals, fishes, insects, plants, rocks, stars, and fossils. Covers the country but specializes in West Coast life. For catalogue, circle #125.

FILMSTRIPS FOR CHURCH PROGRAMS includes *With Our Hands* for senior highs, depicting life in an Ozark work camp. Catalogue of Christian Education Press includes books on camping and drama, filmstrips, color slide sets, charts and other program material. For copy, circle #126.

FANTASY ON FILM: Dr. Seuss' *5,000 Fingers of Dr. T.* Produced by Stanley Kramer. Among many new films for children available to recreation field from a cinema service which offers material for all aspects of special programs. For complete catalogue, circle #127.

EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

LIQUID DETERGENT will clean plastic finishes and rubber marks on sealed floors. Does not form precipitates like curds formed by ordinary soaps. Use on any kind of resilient and hard flooring. Outstanding as a wax stripper. For pamphlet describing this and other soap products, circle #130.

WALLURN RECEPTACLE for refuse has modern lines, is suitable for recreation centers, gyms, hospitals. Mounted in cast aluminum bracket. Top removes readily for quick emptying of metal inner pail. Available in satin chrome or rich bronze. For information on this and other waste containers, circle #131.

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461

NEW ADHESIVE TAPE provides color and utility for temporary court markings. Available in orange, yellow, light green, red, aquamarine, and other colors, with a vinyl film back and high hold pressure-sensitive adhesive. Can be used for stage markings in drama programs, to color code equipment or storage boxes. Sample available on request. Circle #132.

ATTRACTIVE FIBERBOARD PANELS to refinish scaly ceiling. Can be nailed or stapled to furring strips. Pamphlet also describes several types of tiles which trap sound waves, hush loud noises. For literature, circle #133.

TERMITES WILL NOT ATTACK wood treated with a special preservative which boasts many highly satisfied users, both private and industrial. Manufactured in one standard grade, this liquid does not hide stain in wood, can be used for camps, museums, community centers, anywhere and everywhere termites invade. For information, circle #134.

CLIMBAROUND, jumparound, walkaround, look-around, forty or more children can play at one time on a new playground unit. Special corner fittings have patented interlocking knob construction for safety. All fittings smooth; entire unit galvanized; need not be set in concrete; five sizes. For information, circle #135.

PERSONNEL

ASK YOUR TEENAGERS "How About Recreation?" as a career. State recreation society has prepared a booklet describing the recreation field and its possibilities as a career. Answers questions that come to a young person's mind when he is thinking of what to do about his future. Circle #136.

MEET THE CREATIVE DEMANDS of progress. Personnel research company offers materials to evaluate performance on the job, qualification forms, recruiting inventories, materials, books, and forms for good executive management. For more information and listings, circle #137.

RECRUITING MATERIALS available from National Recreation Association to help you give information on the recreation profession to your teenagers or when you give talks to high schools and colleges. For sample, circle #138.

PROGRAM AIDS

CHALKBOARDS in green and slate black and a variety of bulletin boards, easels, and desk combinations available from company with

offices in United States and Canada. Aluminum or wood framed. Models also come in natural cork and pegboard. For catalogue, circle #139.

TOMMY GETS THE KEYS, a comic book in color, is a guide to better driving and is one of a series of educational materials offered by a national rubber company. For your teenagers and safe driving courses. Circle #140.

SINGSPIRATION for the church group. Catalog of choral books, includes hymns, cantatas, songs for all voices, quartets, and trios. For copy, circle #141.

NATURE AND SCIENCE

NATURE GUIDES. Popular series on weather, seashores, birds, insects, etcetera, now available in larger size 5"-by-7 1/4", with bigger type, bigger pictures, eye-pleasing margins. Each book in series written by Dr. Herbert S. Zim, authority on science, in collaboration with experts. For listing of nature series and catalogue of other books, kits, and materials, circle #142.

BIRDWATCHERS UNANIMOUS will warble with delight over slides of North American birds photographed by Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. Sets available on coloration of birds, classification, and natural history of waterfowl. For leaflet, circle #144.

PERIWINKLES, coffee beans, wentletraps, and mossy arks—let's go shell hunting knowing who's who and what's that. For cartooned, illustrated booklet on shell lore, circle #145.

SPORTS, HEALTH, FITNESS

GET INTO THE SWIM—and get out of it safely, too. Booklet cues you on etiquette in the watery realm, offers some commonsense swimming pool musts. Full of peppy cartoons and easy-to-take suggestions. For copy, circle #146.

THE STUFF OF DREAMS . . . a colorful, absorbing booklet, the *Wonderful, Wacky World of Sleep* gives the lowdown on shuteye. Colors and layout are alive, text is informal and informative . . . believe it or not, you can catch up on sleep! To learn more, circle #147.

DON'T SCRATCH . . . if you have poison ivy problems, here are the facts. Booklet explains the poison plant problem, including research findings, clinical documentation. Have it on hand for your camp and outdoor programs. Circle #148.

LOW-COST AIDS

These excellent resources and references must be ordered directly from the source given (enclose remittance).

A HIGHLY IMPORTANT MANUAL for all agencies or departments that offer, or plan to offer, recreation opportunities to handicapped children, youth, and adults, *More Than Fun* is a handbook of planned, organized recreation programming for children and adults with cerebral palsy. The section on adaptations of materials, on parties and special events, on leadership—in fact, the entire booklet—is a real contribution, worth very careful study. The 38-page manual is available for \$2.00 from United Cerebral Palsy Association, Inc., 321 West 44th Street, New York 36.

FILLING A VACUUM. Any recreation department or agency concerned with small or congested neighborhoods not being served by playgrounds will be interested in the mobile community service offered by Friends Neighborhood Guild in Philadelphia. *Play Parade*, a very readable and interesting account of this project is available for \$5.00 from the Guild, 703 North 8th Street, Philadelphia.

ADVENTURE IN NATURE. Camp Fire Girls, Inc., has just published *The Outdoor Book* by Arline Brauer Broy. While it is designed, of course, for leaders of Blue Birds, Camp Fire Girls, and Horizon Clubs, its contents are applicable to any leader or counselor who wishes to make outdoor experiences meaningful and enjoyable to young people. This 154-page manual is written with clarity, is conservation-minded, and is nicely organized. Available for \$1.75 from Camp Fire Girls Inc., 65 Worth Street, New York 13 (note that new address!).

ROCK HAPPY? A valuable guide for the hobbyist about to turn an avocation into a job, *So You Want to Start a Rock Shop*, discusses frankly such problems as buying, pricing, management, appraisal, competition, and the like. Includes many useful do's and even more useful don'ts. The 52-page booklet is available for \$2.00 from J. D. Simpson and Company, 19 West 27th Avenue, Spokane 41, Washington.

WHEN YOU TRAVEL, observe the customs, learn the common language of friendship. A new booklet *Travel with Your Heart* tells you how to make the most of your trip. Available for \$1.15 from the People to People's Youth Activities Committee, Camp Fire Girls, Inc., 16 East 48th Street, New York 17.

TROUBLED PEOPLE can put you in a tight spot. The National Association for Mental Health has published a very interesting and highly useful manual, *How to Recognize and Handle Abnormal People*, by Robert A. Matthews, M.D. and Lloyd W. Rowland, Ph.D. Slanted towards police officers, it is an excellent reference for recreation leaders. The booklet describes how to tell when a person is mentally ill, how to handle a disturbed or violent person, or a depressed person. Of special interest to recreation leaders are the chapters on the mentally retarded and mental disorders in old age. Available for \$6.50 from the National Association for Mental Health, Inc., 10 Columbus Circle, New York 19.



A TREASURE CHEST OF IDEAS for only \$2.50 (\$2.00 to NRA members) Agencies Can Order Now—Pay Later

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Recreation for All Children

Continued from Page 177

a program of recreation outdoors, followed by preparation of supper (planned the week before); then dancing and games. The session ends at 8 PM; parents help drive students home.

Play School—In Evanston, Illinois, a summer play school for the mentally retarded is sponsored by the city recreation board. In the morning, the younger children participate with an instructor for every three children; in the afternoon, eighteen older children take part with four instructors.

* * * *

A cross-country survey of activities for the mentally retarded reveals:

• Norwood, Ohio, has appointed a special supervisor for the mentally retarded. The year-round program set up by this supervisor was carried out within the framework of the regular recreation program. The mentally retarded children were not segregated although more supervision was required. One of the greatest benefits of this program has been to help break down barriers between parents and children and between

mentally retarded children and their "normal" playmates.

• Detroit, Michigan, has established programs in three recreation areas, with a professional staff of four assisted by a group of mothers. These started as a summer camp that has since expanded in its activities and now operates year-round. No child who is eligible to attend school may attend this program. During the regular school day, a program of swimming, games and simple crafts has been developed. The mothers assist with the luncheon and arrange car pools for transportation. The age range has been from six to thirty-five years.

• Arts and crafts are an activity at River Crest, in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania, a nonprofit training center for retarded children. River Crest converted in June, 1958 to work with retarded children exclusively.

• Creative dramatics for retarded children is a continuing hit in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

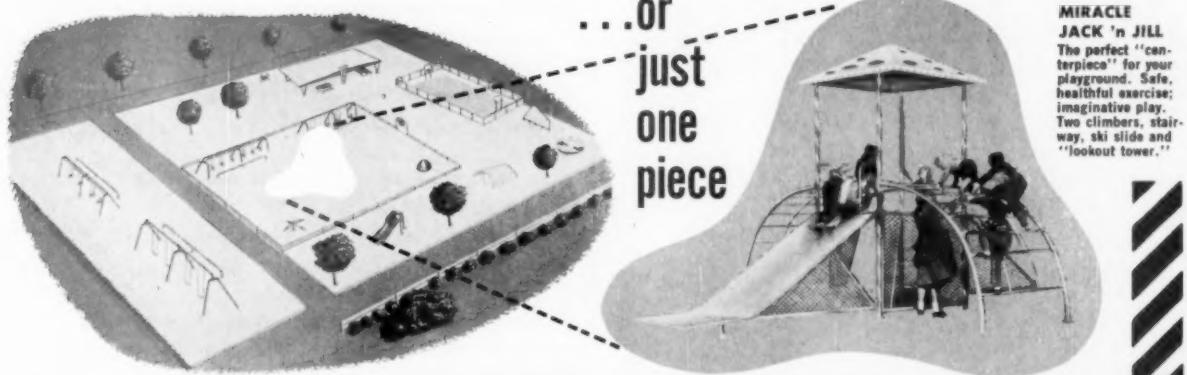
• Retarded youngsters prepared a display for playground parade as part of municipal playground program in Greenfield, Massachusetts.

• Children from Pineland, a Maine institution for the retarded, spend one afternoon a week in nearby Portland under the auspices of the Greater Portland ARC. The children join with other retardates from the area in a program of crafts, cooking, games, song, and rhythm-band.

• In Vermont, horseback riding is a year-round sport at the Brandon Training School. The parents' group assumed half the initial cost for the project, which included purchase of four horses, equipment, and stable renovation. Twelve school residents worked in nearby apple orchards last summer and contributed their earnings to meet rest of cost.

Retarded children can be helped. Adequate opportunity for play and fun, and training in coordination and group living, are among the most important forms of self-help we recreationists can give the mentally handicapped among us. Plan your promotion and the activities for your summer playground, as well as for your observance of June as National Recreation Month, to include recreation for the mentally and physically handicapped. #

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Playground Attendance

Continued from Page 192

accurate records, a single formula may be used for all playgrounds. In such cases, the committee recommends that the following ratios be applied to determine the attendance per session:

Morning —	Peak count x 1.8
Afternoon —	Peak count x 2.5
Evening —	Peak count x 1.8

The committee recognizes that at playgrounds with unusual conditions, the recommended formulas may not apply, and suggests that a test count be made to discover the best index.

ONE OF the significant results of the study was that it generally confirmed the validity of the formula recommended by the NRA Committee that supervised the 1938 study. Furthermore, it convinced many skeptics that to record attendance merely in terms of peak counts fails to take into account a large number of playground visits. Unlike the recommendation based on the earlier study that a uniform index

be used generally, the 1960 Committee recommends that, wherever possible, authorities assign to each playground the index the study revealed to be applicable. The Committee hopes that the proposed formulas will be tested widely during the summer of 1961 and will welcome reports from playgrounds.

Members of the study committee in addition to Mr. Skea were John P. Cronin, Director of Recreation, Providence, Rhode Island; Alvin Eggeling, Superintendent of Recreation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Jerome T. Fernal, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Bloomington, Indiana; Gordon J. Guetzlaff, Supervisor, Bureau of Recreation, Dayton, Ohio; Franklin C. Hill, Director of Parks and Recreation, Rock Hill, South Carolina; Howard B. Holman, Director of Parks and Recreation, Fresno, California; Frederick C. Mandeville, Director of Recreation, Meriden, Connecticut; Jay M. Ver Lee, Superintendent of Recreation, Oakland, California; and Forest W. Wakefield, Superintendent of Recreation, Council Bluffs, Iowa. George D. Butler of the NRA acted as secretary.

Research Briefs

Continued from Page 192

- Aging individuals can be guided in their development of swimming skill.
- Instructional periods can be organized and conducted in a sequence comparable to swimming classes of other age groups.
- Swimming as an activity for senior citizens offers an interesting challenge.
- The general effects of swimming range from claims of improved conditions of chronic ailments to gratifications and sense of accomplishment.

The following suggestions resulting from the experiment were presented as a guide in the formulation of swimming classes of senior citizens:

- Volunteers only should be permitted to take instruction.
- Enroll not more than twenty persons in one class.
- Plan to have at least three instructors available.
- Arrange two full hour class meetings per week.
- Maintain the air and water temperature of 85°.
- Concentrate first on building confidence in the beginner.
- Insist that false teeth be removed.
- Do not expect oldsters to use specially designed props—they prefer to adjust to the available facilities.
- Make flippers and swim boards available if possible.
- Never encourage the aging beginner to work beyond his limit or desire.

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R FOR THE ILL AND HANDICAPPED

Beatrice H. Hill

A GROUP OF nationally eminent recreation educators met in New York City in February to establish a sound foundation for developing curricula in therapeutic recreation. The three-day work conference was sponsored by the National Recreation Association, under a special grant from the Avalon Foundation.

Groundwork for the conference had been carried on for several months prior to the actual meeting, through correspondence with more than thirty prospective participants. These key persons wrote the material for an abstract which contained descriptions of current roles and functions of the specialist in therapeutic recreation. It also presented the changes in these roles and functions which must be anticipated in preparing specialists for the next ten year period. Included were suggested standardization of terminology; a review of some of the problems the educator faces in preparing specialists to meet current and predicted demands for recreation services to the ill and handicapped; and an outline of the work to be covered during the conference.

Participants

Dr. John H. Hutchinson of Columbia University served as chairman for the general report sessions. Other educators who participated were Dr. Catherine Allen, Tufts University, Medford, Massachusetts; Dr. Edith L. Ball, New York University, New York City; Dr. Fred M. Chapman, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis; Frances Cleary, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Dr. Fred M. Coombs, Pennsylvania State University, University Park; Dr. Harry D. Edgren, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana; Dr. John L. Hutchinson, Columbia University, New York City; Dr. Theodore Kohler, San Francisco State College, California; Dr. Janet R. MacLean, Indiana University, Bloomington; Dr. Norman Miller, University of California at Los Angeles; Dr. Cecil W. Morgan, Ithaca College, Ithaca, New York; Dr. William J. Tait, Florida State University, Tallahassee; Dr. Betty van der

Smissen, State University of Iowa; Dr. Charles Weckworth, Springfield College, Springfield; and Dr. Mary S. Wiley, San Jose State College, California. These educators worked in small groups which included Irma Davis, Mrs. Jeanette McGranahan, and Dr. Lois Timmons, who are currently engaged in actual practice in the field of recreation for the ill and handicapped. Consultants from the fields of medicine, psychiatry, nursing, rehabilitation, recreation, and curriculum development, were available to the conference participants during the conference. Dr. Martin W. Meyer, chairman of the Council for the Advancement of Hospital Recreation, acted as observer.

THE CONFEREES developed lists of competencies required for basic functioning in therapeutic recreation; lists of competencies required for advanced-level functioning in this specialty; and lists of the types of educational experiences required to develop these competencies in undergraduate and graduate students. In the course of the three-day period, the conferees picked up the ball which the National Recreation Association had started rolling and have agreed to take responsibility for developing a curriculum guide based on the work begun at this conference.

Dr. van der Smissen was appointed chairman for the Curriculum Development Editorial Committee, which will refine the material developed at the conference; prepare a final report of the conference; and write up further material which will be developed in the course of the group's future work together. Dr. Kohler was appointed chairman of the Curriculum Development Implementation Committee, which will work with the professional organizations to implement the recommendations for action which the group will formulate in its future work. The two committees will be responsible to Dr. Hutchinson, who has agreed to serve as chairman of the curriculum development group.

In line with its policy to provide service to the recreation movement, the National Recreation Association takes pleasure in having brought together this group of first-rate thinkers and doers. As Plato said in *The Republic*: "The beginning is the most important part of the work." #

MRS. HILL, formerly of the National Recreation Association, is now executive director of Comeback, Inc.

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CONCERNING UPKEEP

MERRY-GO-WHEEL

LIKE SO many communities in the 15,000-25,000 class, Marshalltown, Iowa (pop. 22,500), has a limited budget and cannot afford to purchase many of the new ideas in playground equipment. Consequently, the parks and recreation department tries to think of pieces it can make at very little cost. One piece of homemade equipment that has proven a big hit locally is a merry-go-round made from a tractor wheel. The kids sit, stand, or lie on it. They also pile on each other (lying down) to see how many can get on at one time. The idea for this equipment belongs to Park Superintendent "Sparky" Porter.

The materials needed are: a rear tractor wheel and tire (40" to 44" wheels

MR. ABRAHAMS is director of parks and recreation in Marshalltown, Iowa.

recommended), tire should hold air; a steel disc, one-eighth inch thick, cut to fit just inside the outer rim; a front wheel spindle and bearings; a four-inch I beam, four inches long; and a quarter-inch steel plate, twelve inches square. For assembly:

1. Take front spindle as used on any old tractor and cut in two. The cut is made in center of kingpin joining the two spindles.
2. Weld spindle to one end of I beam, making sure spindle is straight on beam when welded.
3. Cut hub out of rear wheel and discard. Lay front wheel on floor with outside of wheel up. Lay rear wheel on top of front wheel and weld in place. Make sure rim of wheel is in true axis with the hub.
4. Weld steel plate to rim of rear

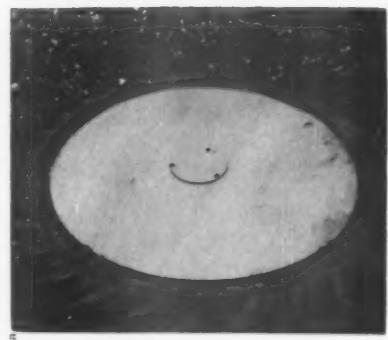
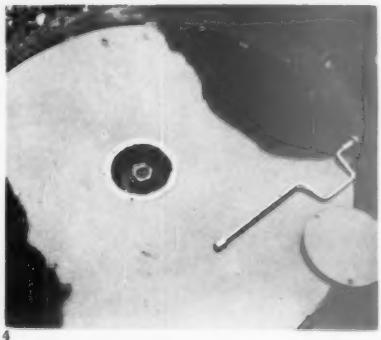
wheel forming the platform with the merry-go-wheel. Cut hole in center of disc for adjusting bearing when assembling. Make hole large enough that hub cap will fit in. The center can be covered by a plate held in place with cap screws.

5. Dig a hole four feet deep and eighteen inches in diameter, or just deep enough so when unit is assembled tire will be one inch off the ground. Place steel plate in bottom of hole and then set I beam on top of it and center. Fill hole with cement making sure the beam sets straight. Plate in bottom keeps beam from sinking into the ground when being used. A couple of crossirons welded to the beam will do the job, instead of the plate.

6. After cement is set, grease bearings and mount wheel on spindle—adjust bearings and install hub cap. The merry-go-wheel is ready to whirl!

Cost for the job will vary, depending upon ability to get the parts and whether the department has its own welding outfit. The following is our cost:

Spindle and front wheel	\$ 3.00
Rear wheel and tire	10.00
I beam	2.00
Platform steel cut to fit	15.00
Welding	20.00
Total	\$50.00



1. Unearth an old tractor and make off with front wheel spindle and bearings.
2. Weld the spindle to I beam with beam inserted in concrete in the ground.
3. Dismember tractor still further and annex rear wheel (40" to 44") and tire.
4. Weld steel plate to rim of the rear wheel to form merry-go-wheel platform.
5. After cement is set, adjust bearings and install hub cap—and let it whirl.

Add Something New

Continued from Page 184

(1) Find a point where four states meet;

(2) Find a state with bodies of water on two sides;

(3) Find the state with the tallest mountain.

Small Group and Relay Races—Team or individuals line up on a starting line in the Pacific Ocean. Upon a signal, they are to race from California to New York and return to starting point without stepping on Nevada, Kansas, or the Carolinas.

Using a Ball—Group stands around outside of map. A ball is bounced from



one person to another, hitting state named by caller.

End The Summer with a Parade

Everyone loves a parade and the residents of Newington, Connecticut, are no exception. The parks and recreation department decided to organize a parade to tell a living story of its summer playground activities. It had no budget, no vehicles...nothing except ideas.

Each of the six playgrounds were asked to think of an idea for a float that would tell a story of some activity in its summer program. They were asked to contact contractors with trucks and organizations to sponsor the float. A maximum of \$35.00 was set for a sponsorship.

The junior leaders and the youngsters did most of the legwork and contacts. Their enthusiasm spread like wildfire and even warmed up some of the supervisors. At a planning meeting, final float themes were arranged to avoid duplications.

Contractors agreeing to allow use of their vehicles drove them to the playgrounds at 9:00 AM on the day of the parade and the young "bees" buzzed to work, putting the pieces of their production together.

The summer music program provided a sixty-piece marching band; the swimming program developed a beautiful water-safety production; the championship swimming team marched in their uniforms; the maintenance department had the equipment steam cleaned at a local contractor's shop the day of the parade; the midget auto club was given permission to drive along the parade route; the summer basketball league and tennis program and everything that was in any way connected with the recreation program was included. One drum corps with local youngsters involved volunteered its services and was followed by three other youth units from surrounding towns also volunteering their services.

The parade started from one of the parks, continued through the center of town and on to a center playground where the annual playground review is held. Every playground was allocated fifteen minutes for presentation of original skits. The outdoor evening program was climaxed by the presentation of trophies for the most outstanding boy and girl on each playground.

This was the climax of Newington's summer program. It has turned out to be the department's best public-relations endeavor—and did not cost the town a red cent.—CLEMENT M. LEMIRE, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Department, Newington, Connecticut.

Miniature Fair

Over seven hundred youngsters and their parents enjoy a miniature fair each year at Patterson Park playground in Baltimore, Maryland. All of the thirty-five stands are made, planned, and managed by the youngsters, as are the tickets, decorations, and signs.

The children arrive at 8:30 AM on Fair Day to help assemble and decorate their stands. Some of these are: fishing, spill the milk, basketball (using a peach basket), ring the clown (using jar rubbers), golf, can toss (table tennis balls tossed in tennis ball cans with faces painted on them), auto race (min-

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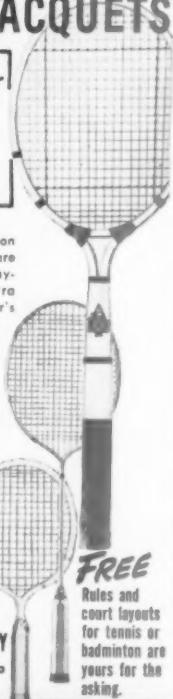
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Recreation Director for City of North Las Vegas, Nevada. New position to develop and organize community recreation work. Experience required: College degree with major or minor in recreation. Age—open. Salary \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 starting, depend-

ing on qualifications. For further information, write Personnel Director, City of North Las Vegas, 1301 E. College Avenue, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Applications for full-time **park and recreational director** are being received by Lander Parks and Recreation Board, Lander, Wyoming. For full particulars, write William A. Smith, 268 Main Street, Lander, Wyoming.

iature cars about two inches in size are pushed on a carrom board with areas painted with slogans like safety zone, poor driver, etcetera). There can also be a weight guesser and a fortune teller, nail driving, miniature bowling, animal bingo, and other circus thrills.

The fair tickets are free and twenty are given to each of the seven hundred guests. When the guests are lucky they receive special winning tickets. When a youngster earns ten winning tickets a lei is presented to him from the awards booth; seven winning tickets, a balloon; and five winning tickets, a lollipop.—VIRGINIA BAKER, Director, Bureau of Recreation, Baltimore, Maryland.

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If you are planning to move, notify us at least thirty days before the date of the issue with which it is to take effect, if possible, in order to receive your magazines without interruption. Send both your old and new addresses by letter, card or post office form 225 to: Subscription Department RECREATION Magazine, 8 West Eighth Street, New York 11, N. Y.

RESOURCES and REFERENCES

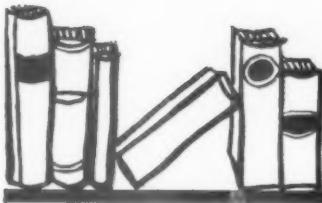
SONG COLLECTIONS

THE MUSIC keeps going round and round and coming out in special song collections in both paperbound and deluxe editions. Many of these were reviewed in the March issue. Here are others of more than passing interest, reviewed by Siebolt Frieswyk of the National Recreation Association Program Service:

FOLKSONGS AND FOOTNOTES, *Theodore Bikel*. Meridian Books, 12 East 22nd Street, New York 10. Pp. 254. \$2.95. Theodore Bikel, noted author and folk singer, has brought together eighty-four songs in this collection from his own extensive repertoire. The folk songs and the piano accompaniments are not only of genuine merit musically, but are also well within the reach of the amateur performer. Moreover, simple guitar chords are indicated. A number of songs are familiar, but most will be highly welcome additions to the amateur and professional's repertoire. This is an international songbook at its best.

SONGS OF THE GUIDED ACE, *Margaret Bradford Bond*, Editor, illustrated by Lucille Corcos. Golden Press, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York 20. Pp. 156. \$6.50. Here is a handsomely bound, profusely and colorfully illustrated collection of old-time favorites about places, love, girls, patriotism, memories, and stories. Includes "Down Where the Wurzburger Flows," "My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon," "Her Golden Hair was Hanging Down Her Back," and also "The Stars and Stripes Forever." A pleasure to eye as well as ear.

SONGS OF THE IRISH, *Donal O'Sullivan*, Editor. Crown Publishers, 419 Park Avenue South, New York 16. Pp. 199. \$7.50. This publication was made possible by an anonymous patron of the arts and by grants-in-aid made by the Arts Council of Ireland. It is a superb publication in every respect. Each of the sixty-five selections is a melodic and poetic gem; the fifteen categories of songs range from lullabies and laments to songs of the itinerant harpers. Gaelic texts and lyrical translations in appropriate meter are provided. The songs stand alone and permit the human voice to accompany itself. All tunes are singable. Anyone who cannot carry a tune will find reading the poetry an equal pleasure. The publication is complete with annotations and index.



NEW PUBLICATIONS

Man and Leisure, Charles K. Brightbill. Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Pp. 385. \$6.50.

This book represents a hallmark in recreation philosophy. Here is a genuine and honest appraisal of the significance of leisure and recreation to mankind in today's world. The subject is treated in a depth and scope that not only reinforces existing valid foundations, but also defines new philosophical dimensions. Written by a man who has spent his entire professional career concerned with what people do in their leisure, it makes clear how leisure and the recreative use of it "can give spark and meaning to our most potent and precious concepts of life." Professor Brightbill has masterfully blended the relationships of leisure and recreation to labor, science, religion, and education into a powerful philosophy that states that life comes first and that recreative living plays an essential and indispensable part of abundant living. The author concludes with a social proposition to mankind and his society to either use leisure well or perish.

This volume will provide a richer and more meaningful understanding of leisure and recreation in relation to man's total life experience for everyone who reads it whether he be board member, lay person, student or professional recreator. — Charles Hartsoe, Secretary, National Recreation Congress.

The Squeeze, Edward Higbee. William Morrow & Company, 425 Park Avenue South, New York 16. Pp. 348. \$5.95.

"A better organization of space for residence, for pleasure, and for business is absolutely imperative if the rising tides of population are not to make a complete shambles of the metropolitan habitat," states Mr. Higbee in his introduction. This sentence is the theme running through a volume concerned primarily with living conditions in metropolitan areas.

Mr. Higbee takes a dim view of many present-day conditions, as illustrated by the following statement: "In the allocation of public space and in the construction of public buildings, the needs of youth and the retired are slighted in favor of streets, bridges, tunnels, or

parking lots. . . ." He holds that "Today's adults . . . in their youth had better opportunities for outdoor play and exercise than they now provide for their own children."

The recent wave of encroachments on park lands comes in for serious criticism. In stating that public parks and playgrounds are among the casualties of modern community design and modern community culture, Mr. Higbee comments, "The sky above America's parks is full of hawks and buzzards peering for prey to pounce upon. . . . In this day of advanced multiple-purpose designs, it is downright reactionary to think a park is a park." However, one must ask where he secured his information about community park standards; and he is misleading in stating that only eighteen hundred out of more than seventeen thousand municipalities have a community park. Recreation authorities may take exception to other statements in this book, but will find it both informative and stimulating.—G.D.B.

Play Activities For the Retarded Child, Bernice Wells Carlson and David R. Ginglend. Abingdon Press, Nashville 2, Tennessee. Pp. 224. \$4.00.

Many readers will recognize Mrs. Carlson as the author of a number of books on recreation for children, including *The Junior Party Book* and

Make It and Use It! They may not know that she is very active as a volunteer in the Raritan Valley unit of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children. Mr. Ginglend is a camp director for the same unit and has worked with retarded children in public or private schools. This book, therefore, is the result of practical experience. The games and other play activities in it are not new; to paraphrase Miss Stein, "A game is a game, is a game, is a game." What makes the book unusual and very valuable is that the explanations include the techniques needed in using these activities with children whose mental age is around that of a normal six-year-old.

The authors write in an informal style that is encouraging and sympathetic and takes away the insecurity felt by many who are starting programs with handicapped groups, and have had no experience. The authors smooth the way for inexperienced leaders or leaders who are working with the retarded for the first time. The book covers music, handcraft, fingerplay, dramatic play, water play, and dancing as well as games. Here is a real and much-needed publication.

Creative Claywork, Harald Isenstein. Sterling Publishing Company, 419 Park Avenue South, New York 16. Pp. 93. \$2.95.

This small book with many good photographs covers very well all the aspects of working with clay. It is written simply and would be helpful to any teacher working with children and adults. Though the chapters are short, the author has tucked in many pertinent facts. Inexpensive but well designed, this book is an explicit "how-to-do-it."

You Can Teach Music (rev. ed.), Paul Wentworth Mathews, Ed.D. E. P. Dutton, 300 Park Avenue South, New York 10. Pp. 196, illustrated. \$3.75.

This handbook, although intended for the classroom teacher, is almost equally useful for the recreation leader. Singing, song leading, and "chording" melody instruments are a few of the subjects covered. This revised edition contains additional material on class piano instruction, use of film music, and rhythmic instruments. →



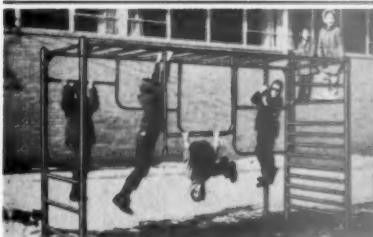


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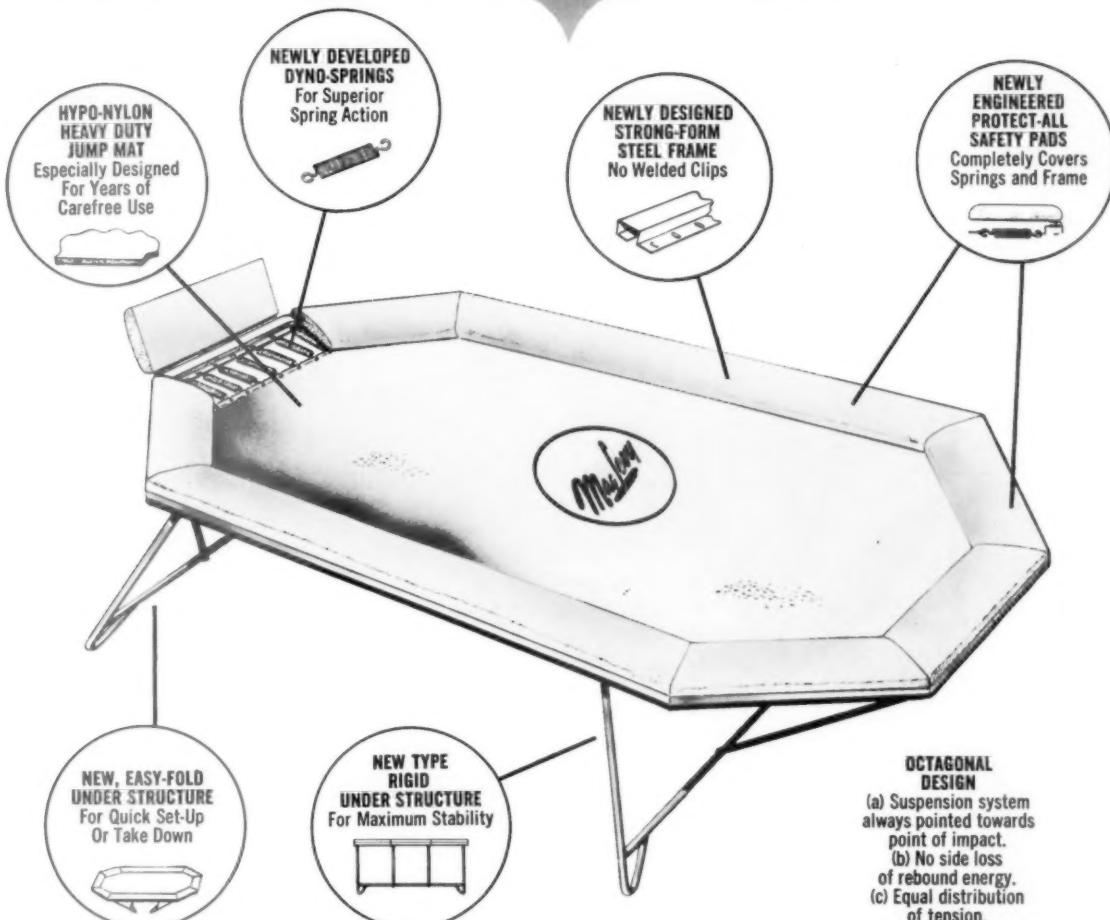
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